



天逆 – Against Heaven

Written by Er Gen (耳根)

Translated by Skynode (天节)

Synopsis:

In the post-apocalyptic age, men were damned.

On one fateful day, an ordinary man found a black mystical crystal in a mine. One event led to another. The man was given the opportunity to change his life forever.

Could he escape from his predetermined fate to create a destiny for himself?

Info:

<http://www.novelupdates.com/series/against-heaven/>

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Glossary for Against Heaven

Heng Yue (恒岳) – The name of the era before disaster strikes
Empress Mainland (母皇大陆) – The land which was renamed post disaster
Jian Yu Island (监狱岛) – Birthplace of Serial Number 2213

Serial Number 2213 (编号2213) – The protagonist, an experimental subject
Chun Lan (春兰) – San Xiao Jie’s maid
Wang Lin (王林) – The real name of Serial Number 2213

Heavenly Water City (天水城) – The place where the subjects were brought to serve
Spring Water Empire (春水帝国) – The empire which was in charge post disaster
San Xiao Jie (三小姐) – One of the empire’s three most powerful Phoenix rulers
Mandara (曼陀罗) – A disease which San Xiao Jie was suffering from
Corpse Flower Poison (尸花毒) – A poison causing as Mandara disease
Wang Popo (王婆婆) – the old lady who works for San Xiao Jie
Cloud Piercing Ship (穿云帆) – the spacecraft which the black-clothed man overcame easily
Honourable (尊者) – the ones who are able to navigate the Cloud Piercing Ship
Soul Power (元力)

Physical Honourables (体术尊者)

Spiritual Honourables (灵术尊者)

Spiritual Enhancement Technique (体内升华术)
Spiral Thrust Power (螺旋刺劲)

Hell Raiser Technique (黄泉升窍决)

Blood Binding Technique (血禁之术)

Ice Phoenix (冰凤)

Stone (司徒南) – one of the ten most wanted fugitives in Spring Water Empire
Zi Yan (紫颜) – San Xiao Jie’s real name
Violet Mansion (紫府) – the place where San Xiao Jie resides
Soul Power Diminishing Worm (绝元虫)
The Soul Power Loop (周身小循环)

Wang Mang (王莽)

Spirit Sensing (开灵)

Venus pill (启明丹) – the pills offered by the eerie voice to Wang Lin in return for his favour Mu Hai (沐海) – one of San Xiao Jie's greatest war slaves Ghost Evasion Technique (鬼瞬闪)

Body fitness club (体术训练俱乐部)

Crystal coin (晶币) – the currency

**Note from the translating and editing team : This glossary is neither final nor definite. It is subject to change from time to time.

Chapter 01 - Serial Number 2213

Heng Yue calendar, Year 50XX

On the Heng Yue Mainland, humans are still the ones in charge, but most of the prominent places that existed long ago, are now nothing but ruins.

It all began one night 3000 years ago, when three black, pointed altars descended from the sky.

That night was a catastrophic night. 50% of all organisms were wiped out and buildings were turned to dust.....

Fast forwarding 3000 years, the Heng Yue Mainland is now known as Empress Mainland.

At the South end of Empress Mainland lies an island. It used to have a well-known harbour which has been reduced to ruins. If observant enough, one might still be able to see some traces of an ancient civilisation amongst the ruins.

From the waist-high grass thickets on the ground, an extremely ordinary looking man who was clothed in black suddenly appeared out of nowhere. He lifted his head to gaze at the sky, a trace of calmness in his eyes.

“They’ve finally caught up! This is the final chance, I am 60% certain that as long as I succeed, I will be free!”

The dazzling sunlight reflected off the man’s eyes as a voice sounded out in the air: “No. 0014, you’ve run rather far this time. To think you’ve actually attempted this number of escapes. This will be the last time because this has caused your sentence to lengthen by 3000 years. Your total sentence now exceeds 10 000 years and you’ve been dealt —— the death penalty.”

Chapter 1, Serial Number 2213

Serial Number 2213 was an experiment subject at the Jian Yu island of Empress Mainland. Since birth, he had been living in a fluid-filled cylindrical glass vessel. He had no memory.

The only thing he knew was that there were many like him all around the area. Each day, people would come and open numerous vessels. None of those who were taken out of the vessels ever returned.

Finally one day, his container was opened. A group of people in white attire brought him into a room.

All the things in the room were foreign to him. He did not know what the people were talking about but from their expressions, he could guess that they were dissatisfied with him.

A feeling of uneasiness set in. Many years later, Serial Number 2213

would recall back and realise that it was called anxiety.

“Subject 2213’s quality is below average. Apart from the brain, the musculoskeletal system, cardiovascular system and nerves do not meet the standard requirement. No one would buy this kind of subject. Withdraw his nourishing fluid eligibility. Send him to the Department of Mining Development after installing the necessary language packages,” a cold, emotionless voice echoed the room.

On that day, Serial Number 2213 would forever leave the glass vessel which had been the only home that he knew. When he was brought away, a strange feeling set in. He did not know what it was, but his heart felt heavier the further away he was from the vessel.

The Department of Mining Development was the place where failed subjects would be sent to. Once the language packages had been installed, they would be dispatched to the underground mine.

When Serial Number 2213 was sent here, he saw many other subjects. They were naked like him, but every one of them looked to be in poor health. When they looked towards him, the gaze was ice cold and expressionless.

Since then, he was one of them. Every day in the darkly-lit quarry, they would dig and search for five-coloured crystals, in exchange for the much needed nourishing fluids.

As time went by, he found out the meaning of pain from the whips of the people in white attire whenever he failed to find any crystals. At the same time, he learned what hunger was.

More often than not, he would think about his vessel. He wanted so much to return to the comfort of being submerged in nourishing fluid in the glass container.

One day, during mining, all of this changed forever. He found a black crystal unlike one that he had seen before. The moment when he held the crystal in his hand, he felt a gush of warmth entering his body

After 7 days and nights of being unconscious with a high fever, he finally woke up.

When he opened his eyes, he found that he was back inside his vessel. Through the glass, he could see many of the people in white attire looking at him with curiosity.

He was surprised. Curiosity? How could he have known to use such a word? What did "curiosity" mean? Suddenly, he felt a jolt in his head and an image appeared in front of his eyes.

A man clothed in black was looking at the sky. In mid air, an old man in grey clothes said sternly, "Wang Lin, you won't be able to escape."

The image then disappeared. Serial Number 2213 was confused. He felt different. His mind was filled with things which he did not understand.

For instance, right now he was back to the much longed-for vessel, but he did not feel happy at all. In fact, there was a deep sense of hatred to the extent that he felt the compulsion to kill all the people who were

watching him.

However, he concealed his emotions carefully.

The previous him wouldn't have known how to do all of this, but now it seemed like an instinct to him. In a way which he could not understand, this instinct had been etched deeply in his soul.

He could not hear the conversation among the people outside the vessel, but from his sharp observation, he realised that their curiosity had slowly worn out.

On the tenth day, they brought him out from the vessel. They clothed him before bringing him to face a lady. Even though that was the first time of him seeing a lady, he was no longer surprised about how he was able to recognise one. Just by looking, his brain knew that she was a female.

For the past ten days, he could clearly feel that he was different from before. At least now, he was able to think and analyse.

However, he was still unable to comprehend what females were for.

The lady looked dissatisfied. After contemplating for a while, she reluctantly nodded her head and brought him away. He followed the lady into a huge oval shaped object. Over there, he met more than ten others like him.

Next, the ground trembled and he felt that the oval object was

ascending. Suddenly, a gush of blood rushed to his head. He could not help but vomit a mouthful of fresh blood. He looked around and realised that the others looked pale with blood staining the corner of their mouths. Each one of them appeared to be terrified.

From the corner of his eyes, he looked through the window. The ground below seemed to be getting smaller and smaller. He suddenly realised that he was forever separated from his vessel.

At this time, the lady opened the door and entered. Seeing the pallor on everyone's face, she gave a cynical smile. She looked around. Her glance stopped at a rather muscular and good-looking subject. She went in front of him and with one just pull, dropped his pants. After giving it a good look, she laughed mischievously. With one quick movement, she let the clothes slide down from her body, revealing a sexy female body which was very desirable.

Serial Number 2213 was dumbstruck with what happened next. The lady bent forward, showing her big, bouncy buttocks. She eagerly wrapped her mouth over an object at the subject's groin and started sucking and licking. After that, she straddled herself over the subject. With her right hand, she tried adjusting the object and pushed herself down towards it. Immediately, she gave out a loud moan.

When the oval object once again gave a tremble and descended from the sky, Serial Number 2213's brain was still playing back the scenes. More than ten of the subjects had been engaged in the same act with the lady throughout the day and night.

Sometimes, there would be multiple subjects who would be doing the same thing with the lady. Unfortunately, he did not join in because he

somehow felt disgusted that the subjects were all fighting each other to do it.

After the oval object had landed, all of them slowly walked out from it.

The one who was receiving them was another lady. She was clothed in pink with bright clear eyes.

The lady who sent them there did not follow. After unloading all the subjects, she left with the oval object. Before leaving, she naughtily laughed and told the lady in pink,

“Chun Lan, you tell my elder sister that this batch of products taste good. Along the way, I enjoyed myself. Tell my sister to slowly savour it!”

Serial Number 2213 walked among the subjects. With the light from the setting sun, what appeared in front of him was a lavish looking building. Even though the building was refined, it felt strange to him.

Everyone including himself was sent into a massive room with more than ten beds. After the lady in pink helped them set up the beds, there was a complicated look on her face. After giving out a faint sigh, she turned and left the place.

It was a silent night. Early morning the next day, an old woman who was dressed in black came to their room. She coughed lightly, but the sound was as loud as thunder in Serial Number 2213's ears. Subsequently, there was blood coming out from his mouth and nose. He looked around and noticed that everyone was also experiencing the same thing.

"You all need to bear in mind that this is the Heavenly Water City of the Spring Water Empire. You are owned by San Xiao Jie, who is one of the empire's three most powerful Phoenix rulers. From now onwards, all of you are the Phoenix servants. If there is anyone who dares to go against orders or break the rules, I will not go easy on them!"

The old woman's words were as loud as thunder, deeply engraved in everyone's heart. 2213 dropped his head, flashes of images once again flooded his mind when he saw the old woman.

The man clothed in black was surrounded by a deadly aura. Under his feet were dead bodies.

Once the old woman had stopped talking, she scanned the room and pointed to a subject. With a deep voice, she said, "You. Follow me. You will be the first one to serve."

2213 cautiously observed as the old woman was leaving with the subject. The gaze the old woman gave the subject was not unlike looking at a dead person.

The subject never returned. Three days later, the old woman reappeared and took away another subject. It was the same gaze again.

As time passed by, one by one, subjects were asked to served, but none of them ever returned. 2213 felt deeply concerned. In a period of one month, he could clearly feel that he was different from before. It was as though he knew a lot of things, yet knew nothing at all. But, there was something that he was certain of. He would not let his fate be determined

like the others. He needed to be strong!

"I must be strong!" 2213 would tell himself every night. For the past one month, the lady in pink, who received them, would come by frequently. Every time, there would be a tense and complicated look on her face.

Through contact, 2213 got to know that the lady was called Chun Lan. She was the San Xiao Jie's maid. From Chun Lan, he discovered important news.

San Xiao Jie contracted a rare and strange disease known as Mandara. She needed to continuously have sex with different men in order to alleviate her symptoms.

Soon, it was time for 2213 to serve.

With the old woman leading the way, he was brought to a secluded courtyard. In the yard, there were many pink flowers with overwhelming fragrance.

The old woman suddenly stopped and asked, "Do you have a name?"

2213 was stunned. He replied, "Wang Lin."

"Wang Lin, watch my steps carefully. If you make even a single mistake, the court guards would kill you." The old woman gave Wang Lin a look with her dusky eyes, then continued walking.

Looking at the old woman's back, Wang Lin remained silent. He followed her into the court hall. Once Wang Lin was in the hall, the old woman left.

The hall was not big. Putting aside the decorations, what's obvious to one would be a huge bed. In the bed was a lady who was lying on her side. A black silky veil was covering part of her face. Her icy cold eyes were staring at Wang Lin.

02 The 2-Year Delay

Once in the hall, Wang Lin was greeted by a foul smell; similar to decomposing corpses. This smell was very familiar to him. He immediately took a few steps back. He looked at the lady on the bed, carefully inspecting her neck, arms and legs.

Round, violet petals were seen on the skin of her body.

Looking at these round, violet petals, an image unexpectedly appeared in Wang Lin's mind; a place filled with corpses. Each of them had the petals on their body. A black clothed man was squatting on the ground, examining the bodies. At times, he seemed to be deep in his thoughts, and at other times, he would mix and match some herbs!

After the image disappeared, Wang Lin felt a throbbing headache. The colour on his face changed. He couldn't help but feel goosebumps. Some important messages surfaced in his mind.

Corpse Flower Poison! This must be Corpse Flower Poison. And it seemed that it had progressed to the second stage.

The lady noticed Wang Lin's expression. She cynically said, "You must be afraid."

With the information about Corpse Flower Poison, Wang Lin knew that the second stage was when the poison would be most contagious. He looked at the lady, muttered to himself softly and smiled.

The lady's eyes became even colder. She said, "You have some guts. The other slaves were scared to death when they saw my real appearance. You are the first one who managed to smile. But that's alright, your fate will still be the same as others."

Wang Lin laughed, pulled up a chair for himself and sat on it.

The lady was stunned. She had never expected Wang Lin to sit in front of her. She coldly said, "It seems that you are not only gutsy, but also....."

"You desperately look for men to sleep with you with the very intention of spreading your disease to others. Are you hoping that by doing so, you would be cured?" Wang Lin interrupted her. His eyes were shining brightly.

The lady immediately sat up. With fiery eyes, she asked, "Who told you that?"

Wang Lin remained calm and collected. He continued, "The way you are doing, it won't cure your disease, but instead, make it even worse."

The lady stared at Wang Lin eerily and said, "I don't know who told you that. It doesn't matter. I shall let you experience this Mandara illness."

Wang Lin kept quiet and stared at her calmly. He noticed the subtle scowl on her face.

As the memory regarding the Corpse Flower Poison became clearer, he said, "Based on the round red petals on both your arms and legs, I am guessing that your whole body is already stiff and numb. Every movement brings unbearable pain. Your hair has begun to fall out. Mouth full of ulcers. Aches and pain all over your bones and joints, and your vision has become blurrier. Am I right?"

Her expression turned from eerie to shocked. Her breathing became laboured. Most of the things that Wang Lin had just said were true. She had never told anyone about her symptoms. Thus, none of the servants would have known about these.

Because Mandara disease was so rare on the Empress Mainland, only a handful of people would know about the illness in detail.

"How..... How do you know?" Her voice was already shaking.

"Mandara disease can be divided into three stages. Once it progresses to stage three, the only outcome is death." Wang Lin looked at her and coolly said, "You are very lucky to meet me during the second stage of the disease. I know how to treat this Mandara disease."

The lady took a deep breath, sat up straight and said, "Mandara disease is fatal. What makes you think that you can cure me?"

"If you are not being treated, death within one year is inevitable!" Wang Lin looked at the lady expressionlessly.

After a moment of silence, she pursed her lips and said, "Okay, I will let

you treat me. But if you are lying to me, I definitely..."

"Treatment would require that you pay a price," Wang Lin smiled while interrupting the lady again.

"What do you want? Wealth? An ID as a free man? High level spells? Say it." The lady said in disdain.

"An ID as a free man. A quiet place to stay where I would not be bothered. Spells.... that would do too. Give me a set of high level spells. You need to also ensure my safety after your recovery." Wang Lin knew that in the near future, he would not be able to leave the place. The most important thing now was to survive and grow stronger.

"Not a problem. But, how do I know that you are not lying to me. If you are really confident of treating my disease, you will take this pill now. On the day of my recovery, I will give you the cure. Wang Popo, restrain him." the lady smiled coldly while retrieving a wooden small box.

Wang Lin heard a sigh from his back, followed by an icy cold energy going into his body. In the blink of an eye, his whole body was immobilised. Other than the mouth, all other parts of his body became stiff.

"Young man, it's in your best interest to take this pill. I am already old. I do not wish to use the Soul Chain technique on you. You must have heard about the Soul Chain technique. There is a one third chance of failure where the soul would be scattered. However, if successful, you would be a living zombie whose job is only to obey commands." A hoarse voice came from Wang Lin's back. The old woman was actually Wang Popo.

Wang Lin smiled and said, "Alright, I shall swallow the pill." Once he said that, his entire body returned to normal. After stretching and moving his still slightly numb arms and legs, he took the wooden box without saying anything.

Using two fingers, he slowly removed the pill from the box and immediately inserted it into his mouth and swallowed. He said, "Mandara disease needs a long period of treatment. I need two years. Every month I will give you a prescription of herbs. You will recover after two years."

In actuality, the treatment for Corpse Flower Poison was not as slow as what Wang Lin claimed. With the information he had in his memory, he was confident that he would be able to cure this disease within three months. Stating two years was only to buy time for himself.

He did not believe that the lady would hold the end of her bargain regarding his safety. After spending some time thinking for the past month, he had learnt that it's in his best interest to put his fate in his very own hands.

At the southmost part of the mansion, there was a quiet and secluded court where Wang Lin was sitting. All the servants nearby had been transferred out. So now, apart from him, there wasn't anyone else.

At the time, the day had grown dark. Apart from a strange looking rectangular lamp, there were two other objects in front of Wang Lin. One was his ID as a free man, another was a book made up by yellow silk cloths.

Looking at them, Wang Lin gave a deep sigh.

Whatever he had now was closely related to the crystal he discovered at Jian Yu Island. Besides giving him fragments of weird memories and recollections, the crystal had slowly changed his personality and attitude.

It wasn't wrong to say that the crystal gave him a new life. Currently, his survival was the only thing which mattered most. In order to survive, he needed to become strong! Wang Lin gave a resolute look and picked up the yellow book. However, once he flicked through the book, he frowned. There wasn't a single word that he recognized.

Lucky for Wang Lin, besides words, there were illustrations of human bodies. However, focusing on the red and green curvy lines on the illustrations gave him a headache.

Putting down the book, Wang Lin laughed bitterly. Apparently, there was something he had to do first; learn how to read.

Back in his room, Wang Lin pushed the tea cup from the table onto the floor. He picked up one of the bigger broken fragments, then laid on his bed. However, he had difficulties falling asleep. Although he was no longer worried that he would disappear like other subjects, he couldn't help but feel that he was still in great danger.

Any wrong move in San Xiao Jie's room would have resulted in death.

He was trapped in a hopeless situation. However, Wang Lin believed that if he were like the other subjects, his fate would be different. The

other subjects had been forced to sleep with San Xiao Jie and died after contracting the Mandara disease.

The fate of his fellow subjects were clear examples of what could have happened.

Therefore, when he recognized that Mandara disease was actually Corpse Flower Poison and that it was curable, he smiled because he knew he had the key to get out of this deadly situation.

Actually, when San Xiao Jie wanted him to consume the poison, she would not have needed Wang Popo's service to force him. Wang Lin understood his situation and would unhesitantly take the pill in exchange for two years of preparation time. It was his belief that all of these would change completely in two-years time.

Finally, Wang Lin fell asleep. He had not changed his clothes. The broken fragment of clay was still in his tight grasp. To him, this was a weapon to defend himself.

After a restful night's sleep, Wang Lin woke up very early the next morning. After briefly washing his face, he looked into the mirror. The man in the mirror looked ordinary; with a rather dark skin tone and coarse skin. There was a confused look on his face.

How could he continue surviving? By making himself strong, that's the only option. He needed to be strong!

However, the most important thing now was to find the herbs required

to treat the Corpse Flower Poison. He was prepared to go outside and get a better understanding of this strange world. When he stepped out of the courtyard, Wang Lin noticed two armored female guards standing at his door.

One of them looked at Wang Lin and raised her hand to stop him. She said, "Without San Xiao Jie's permission, you cannot leave this place."

Wang Lin smirked, laughing in his heart. He loudly said, "You let San Xiao Jie know that I need to go out to buy the herbs. Also, call Chun Lan to come here with enough money for the purchases." After saying this, Wang Lin returned to the courtyard, sat on the stone chair and continued reading the spells book.

The guard looked shocked. After hesitating for a bit, she gave an eye signal to her partner and left quickly.

Not long after, the guard returned with Chun Lan following behind. Chun Lan was surprised to see Wang Lin. She felt curious as to why he was not killed like the other men on the second day. But she understood that she should not ask about things which she was not supposed to know. "San Xiao Jie gave me a thousand crystal coins, what medicine do you wish to buy?" After saying that, she suddenly noticed that there was a black piece of paper on the stone table. She gave an astonished look. She recognized that. It was the ID of a free man!

Wang Ling closed his book and stood up. He gently smiled, then said, "Bring me to the place that sells herbs so that I can have a look first."

03 Grade E Spells

With Chun Lan following, the guards no longer stopped Wang Lin. After getting out of the mansion, Wang Lin took a deep breath. There was an extremely wide street in front of him, with different varieties of exotic-looking buildings standing on each side.

While slowly walking down the street, Wang Lin made a shocking discovery. In the city, he had not seen a single male. All of the citizens were women.

His appearance was like that of a crane in a flock of chicken, capturing many glances from the people walking by. They looked at him with gazes full of curiosity and contempt.

What kind of empire was this? An empire of females? Wang Lin had a weird feeling.

Chun Lan saw Wang Lin's expression and thought that he felt out of place. Thus, she softly whispered to him, "You've never been outside before. You need to know that the men in Spring Water Empire cannot leave their houses. This was a rule set by the Spring Water Queen."

"Spring Water Queen?" When Wang Lin heard that name, his heart was inexplicably filled with hatred.

"Yes. Spring Water Queen, one of the three queens of the Empress Mainland, our Spring Water Empire's ruler."

Suddenly, the sky turned dark. A strange-looking octagonal spacecraft descended quickly from the sky. Wang Lin could feel a strong aura locking onto him. The strength of this aura was comparable to the ones emitted from the mansion's warriors.

Wang Lin stopped walking. He raised his head and stared into the sky with a serious look on his face.

The entire spacecraft was painted black and made of unknown materials. Its length was about a few metres. The entire design was brimming with malevolence.

"The first rule in the Spring Water Empire law states that unfreed men are not allowed to be out in public. The death penalty falls on those who disobey!" An ice cold voice transmitting from the octagonal-shaped spacecraft.

Chun Lan immediately drew out a badge from her clothes, then reverently and respectfully said, "My Honourable, the Xiao Jie in my house owes this man a great favour. He has already been granted the status of a free man by the Phoenix race." Wang Lin clearly saw that there was a violet flame engraved on the badge.

The aura that was locked onto Wang Lin immediately lifted. Without further ado the spacecraft, which was no longer interested in Wang Lin, ascended into the sky and disappeared into the horizon.

Chun Lan stored the badge within her clothes again. She smiled and told Wang Lin, "Although Heavenly Water City is far away from the

Empire's capital, the enforcers are very strict. Without this badge of mine, you would have been in trouble today."

Wang Lin looked towards the direction where the octagonal-shaped spacecraft disappeared to. Although he did not show any unusual expression on his face, a turmoil was forming deep inside him. When the octagonal-shaped spacecraft showed up, he could feel an electric shock going through his brain where, once again, an image surfaced.

In the image, the black-clothed man had a grave look on his face while he was surrounded by hundreds of octagonal-shaped spacecrafts. With the wave of his arm, one by one, the spacecrafts turned into dust.

At the same time, the man sarcastically said, "Is this the Cloud Piercing Ship? Doesn't seem to be anything special about it."

"Cloud Piercing Ship!" Wang Lin sounded.

Chun Lan was surprised. Filled with curiosity she said, "What is a Cloud Piercing Ship? This is a Spring Water battleship. It is Spring Water Empire's unique spacecraft, and it can only be navigated by the Honourables.

"The Honourables that you mentioned, is it a title?" Wang Lin digressed.

"You are from Jian Yu Island. So I don't blame you for not knowing this. Once a person's soul power grows to a certain level, he or she would be named as an Honourable. According to the attributes of the soul power,

they can be further divided into Physical Honourables or Spiritual Honourables.

After that, the Honourables would be elected by the Empire to become the city's guardians. It's a pity that I did not have such potential. I do not have any soul power in my body, not even Level 1. The spells that I have mastered are of the lowest rank, Grade E standard. I have a sister who has already mastered Grade D spells and is currently at Level 2 standard." While talking about this, an envious look appeared on Chun Lan's face.

Throughout the journey, Wang Lin and Chun Lan talked nonstop. Wang Lin began to have a better understanding of this world. For example, in this world, spell powers can be classified into five grades, from Grade E to A.

Training with spells of different grades would end with vastly different results. Grade E spells can at most achieve a mere Level 3 standard, while Grade A spells can achieve the highest level of soul power.

To Wang Lin's surprise, the books teaching these spells are actually available at the bookstores.

In addition, the technology in this world was very advanced. Spring Water Empire was the leader amongst the three big empires; especially in machinery.

The illiteracy problem which troubled Wang Lin was also solved during a conversation with Chun Lan.

There's a device called a card reader, which would be able to assist him in recognising dozens of the more popular symbols for the Empress Mainland language.

During their conversations, Chun Lan was also observing Wang Lin carefully. Her previous few encounters with him did not leave her with a deep impression of him. But currently in her eyes, there was a lot of mysteries surrounding this man. He was the first person to sleep with Xiao Jie and was the first to, not only survive, but also gain the status of a free man.

It was common knowledge that getting an ID as a free man at the Spring Water Empire was exceptionally difficult. Now that Wang Lin had gained the ID, Chun Lan couldn't help but think,

"He has an ID as a free man now. According to convention, it should not be against the Empire's law to get closer to him now....."

"Chun Lan, the card reader device that you were talking about. Where can it be bought? ..Chun Lan?" Wang Lin looked at Chun Lan strangely, raising his voice.

"Ah..... The card reader device. It can be bought at the bookstore just up ahead." Chun Lan was stunned as she was not paying attention.

At this point, the two of them arrived at the herb store entrance.

The store was a huge building with three floors. This was Wang Lin's first trip to the herb store. Initially, he was worried because he was unsure

whether the herbs in his memory were sold here or not. However once he walked in, he was relieved to find that all the herbs needed to treat Corpse Flower Poison were available here.

After selecting a few of the needed herbs, Wang Lin additionally picked out a few other herbs. This was to prevent people from correctly guessing the real herbs required for the treatment.

If San Xiao Jie found out about the herbs he bought through Chun Lan, then for her own sake, she better not try to make the medicine herself. Aside from the actual ingredients needed for the cure, the rest were extremely poisonous.

Coincidentally, among the herbs needed to treat Corpse Flower Poison, there was one which was highly toxic. Thus, it would be difficult to guess which herbs were the right ones. Other than Wang Lin, no one else would be able to prepare the correct medicine based on the herbs which he bought.

As he was about to pay for the herbs, the shop owner, a pretty lady in her thirties, gave him a look and said, "The amount of Blue Ant Powder that you require is a lot. I don't have that much stock here. Could it be switched out with another herb?"

Wang Lin's expression was unchanged but his eyes gave a look which made it seem like he was smiling when he was not. He gave the lady a deep stare. The Blue Ant Powder was the most poisonous herb among the ones he picked. Although the shop owner seemed casual when she mentioned the herb, it made Wang Lin suspicious.

With such a look from Wang Lin, the pretty lady suddenly felt that he saw through her intentions. She immediately panicked.

"I will take whatever you have." The look of contempt in Wang Lin's eyes disappeared in an instance.

After Chun Lan packed the herbs, both of them left the store.

At this time, there was a person coming down from the second floor. She was the old lady, Wang Popo, from San Xiao Jie's room.

"Have you memorised all the herbs that he picked?", the old lady asked after giving a soft sigh.

"In total there are seventeen herbs. Eight of them are medicinal, while the rest are extremely poisonous. The herbs the young man picked were very strange. How can they be used to treat Mandara disease? In my opinion, he is obviously going to make poison." The pretty lady's eyebrow twitched. The look which Wang Lin gave her resurfaced in her mind. In her heart, she felt that something wasn't right. "Wang Popo, this man seemed to know what was going on. Take a look at these herbs....."

"This young man is quite intelligent. Some of the herbs he picked were used to prevent us from figuring out the real ingredients. With the medical knowledge you have, try figuring out the ingredients. In regards to the Blue Ant Powder, I think it might be one of the ingredients. Try to add it in and see." The old lady frowned, with a sense of strangeness in her dark eyes, she thought to herself,

“This 3000-year-old medicine preparation skill was unique to the ancient world. The current number of people with the know-how today are not many. Looks like this young man is quite mysterious.”

Thinking about it, she recalled that Wang Lin was bought from Jian Yu Island by Xiao Jie. The male slaves produced by Jian Yu Island were all genetically engineered and manufactured. Was she perhaps being too suspicious?

Wang Popo sighed. She didn't want to think about it anymore.

After Wang Lin walked out of the herb store, under Chun Lan's guidance he reached the bookstore. After spending some time there, Wang Lin and Chun Lan headed back to the mansion, carrying bags of goods.

Once Chun Lan accompanied Wang Lin back to his room, she left. Wang Lin sat down in the room all by himself. He brought out the two spellbooks and card reader device which he bought from the bookstore.

Spiritual Enhancement Technique, Grade E — Basic, Level 3 is the Highest Level.

Spiral Thrust Power, Grade E — Basic

Initially Wang Lin thought that the bookstore would have all the spells from Grade E to A. However, after entering the shop, he realised that they were only selling Grade E spellbooks. Moreover, the books were public editions, which meant that anyone could get their hands on them.

Through Chun Lan, Wang Lin gained a better understanding regarding spells. He learned that the higher the spell level, the slower the training speed.

For instance, if two people of the same capabilities were to train with different spells for a year, one training in Grade A spells and the other trained in Grade E spells. Then the latter would have attained Level 2 soul power while the first would only achieve Level 1.

This was a strange phenomenon, but no one seemed to understand the reason for this.

By using the card reader device, Wang Lin finally managed to read the spellbook given by San Xiao Jie — Hell Raiser Technique, Grade D — Basic.

Looking at the three spellbooks in his hand, Wang Lin began to think. From what he learned, the best spell to learn would be the Hell Raiser Technique as it was a Grade D spell. However, Wang Lin thought he should be careful after making the deal with San Xiao Jie. If he were her, he would certainly modify the spellbook.

04 The First Encounter

Coming from Jian Yu Island, Wang Lin had been very careful. He knew that any mistake would mean his end. Living in a world of survival of the fittest, he constantly reminded himself to be cautious.

Putting this aside, there was something else that concerned Wang Lin; Grade D spells were high level spells so the time required to train in them was longer than Grade E spells.

Wang Lin knew that what he was lacking right now, was time. Taking all of this into consideration, he decided to train with Grade E spells so that he could reach Level 3 soul power as quickly as possible. Future plans would be made after attaining the ability to defend himself.

Spiritual Enhancement Technique was a commonly seen spell in the Empress Mainland. It had one function, strengthening the body. Rumours were that practising this spell for an extended period of time could prolong one's life.

This spell had no chants. One just needed to follow the poses shown in the illustrations, and as described in the texts. Because of its utmost simplicity, it became the favourite for people in the Empress Mainland.

Wang Lin began practising by following the illustrations in the book.

The pose for the first illustration was weird.. The arms were twisted to the back while both legs formed corkscrew motions. After a lot of effort,

Wang Lin barely managed to make a pose similar to it.

No more than ten seconds later, he immediately felt burning aches all over his body as his breathing became laboured.

According to the requirements for the Spiritual Enhancement Technique, it's considered a small progress to be able to hold a pose for more than ten minutes. If one was able to hold the pose for more than an hour, it would be considered a success and one could proceed to the next illustration.

After loosening up a bit, Wang Lin reattempted the pose from the first illustration with great determination. Ten seconds later, he could feel every inch of his muscles burning in pain, but he persevered with a strong will. He knew that there was no room to slack off as his time was precious.

After twenty seconds, the pain subsided. But before Wang Lin could even sigh in relief, a sharp pain radiated from his chest. He retched and vomited dark purple blood, before collapsing and falling unconscious.

After some time, Wang Lin slowly regained his consciousness. Upon waking up, he carefully observed his surroundings and gave a sigh of relief when he realised that everything still looked the same.

With the sky already turning dark, it appeared he was unconscious for quite some time. Wang Lin recalled his previous training and felt confused. The pose would explain the numbness and aching. But to think that he would have a sudden onset of chest pain and blood vomiting?

Unable to figure out the root of the problem, Wang Lin once again tried the pose. Ten seconds later, he felt the same aches.

With great focus, he maintained his posture. After twenty seconds, he could clearly feel pain all over the left side of his chest, as though something were tearing and biting through him. Before the pain got any worse, he stopped.

At this point, his face became pale. With every breath, traces of rosy redness returned to his face. It took a while for his facial colour to return to normal.

"Something is wrong!" Wang Lin's eyes were full of apprehension. He opened his shirt, revealing his chest. He bent his head towards the left side of his chest to take a look while slowly palpating it.

He relaxed his body and shut his eyes. Slowly, his breathing became calmer. His surroundings were silent and he could feel his heart beating, "Lub dub, lub dub....."

Hold on, that's not right. Wang Lin abruptly opened his eyes. He could feel that with every heartbeat, there was something moving within the left side of his chest.

With a finger, Wang Lin touched the location where he felt the sensation and gave it a good poke. That thing actually moved. It shifted away slightly from Wang Lin's finger.

"This..... This thing is actually alive!" Wang Lin was horrified.

It must have been this thing that disrupted his training, but how did it enter his body? There were only two possible answers. One, was that it had been inside him ever since Jian Yu Island. The second explanation, would be because of the poison given to him by San Xiao Jie.

Between the two answers, he was more inclined towards the latter.

Wang Lin seemed to be in deep thoughts. He picked up the broken piece of clay from his bedside and put it under his foot. He knew very well that if he was not able to solve this problem, he would be unable to continue his training. Clenching his teeth, he took a deep breath and repeated the pose shown in the illustration again. Twenty seconds later, there was an extreme sensation of pain as expected. Wang Lin grabbed the piece of clay and unhesitantly stabbed into the location of the moving thing.

He disregarded the pain and the fresh blood flowing from his chest. With one quick movement, he explored the wound with his right hand. After a sharp shriek from inside the wound, Wang Lin sat weakly on the floor. In between his two fingers was a black, half bean-sized body of a worm.

"What a cunning worm." Still shivering, Wang Lin brought out one of the herbs he bought. After munching on it, he applied it to his chest.

He felt drowsy and drained of energy.

"Lucky for me, one of these herbs is an excellent blood coagulant." After a long time, Wang Lin's pain slightly subsided. He then bandaged the

wound with his shirt.

This slight movement caused the wound to start bleeding again. Wang Lin leaned on the side of his bed with both eyes closed. His face was unusually pale.

The worm was still alive and was hiding deeply inside Wang Lin's body. Wang Lin tried searching for it, but was unable to detect the worm anymore. It must have realised Wang Lin's brutality, thus it did not want to show itself anymore.

After resting for a bit, Wang Lin ignored the pain and once again made the pose. Twenty seconds later, even though there was still numbness and weakness all over his body, the pain caused by the worm did not recur.

This time, Wang Lin managed to hold the pose. The night slowly passed by.

That night Wang Lin's wound reopened a few times, making him use up half of the blood coagulating herb. With unwavering persistence, he managed to extend the pose duration to 1 minute and 20 seconds before dawn.

Even though he hadn't slept, Wang Lin realised that, apart from the pain coming from the wound, he did not feel tired at all. In fact, he was full of energy and his body felt quite well. This undoubtedly increased his confidence about the efficacy of the Spiritual Enhancement Technique.

In the morning, Chun Lan sent him some breakfast, but Wang Lin did not touch the food. After Chun Lan left, he took out one of the herbs he bought. It was a herb which could increase blood production and with spiritual energy restoration properties. He put a large chunk of it into his mouth and swallowed it to fill his stomach.

He had decided not to consume any food that was prepared in the mansion. If he was hungry, he would take some of the herbs he bought. Otherwise, he would walk to the street and buy some food himself. This was to deny San Xiao Jie any opportunity to poison him.

Initially he thought of asking Chun Lan to not bring him any food in the future. However, after thinking about it, he decided to not tell her. He would instead secretly dispose of the rice and dishes after Chun Lan left.

Sitting in bed cross-legged, Wang Lin was not willing to waste any more time. He continued to do the pose from the first illustration. This time, he set a target for himself. His goal was to hold this pose for more than two minutes today.

Previously, after Wang Lin became exhausted, he would require 10-minutes of rest to replenish his energy. However, with much endurance and persistence, his rest time became shorter and shorter as the body's restoration speed improved.

Now, he only required 9 minutes of rest time before he could continue training. The more he trained, the better he got. The duration of the pose gradually increased; 1 minute 30 seconds, 1 minute 40 seconds, 1 minute 50 seconds.

Finally, at dusk, he had managed 1 minute 58 seconds.

Sensing that he was near his goal, Wang Lin stood up and gave a good stretch. Noticing a scab forming over his wound, he applied some more herbs on it.

After that, he pushed open the room door and took a deep breath. While admiring the setting sun, he let out a smile. The feeling that he was improving with time pleased him because he felt like he had more control over his own fate.

On a stone table in the courtyard, there were two plates of food and a set of new clothes. The food sent by Chun Lan was meant for lunch and dinner. After throwing the food away, Wang Lin took the clothes, returned to his room and continued training.

As he trained more, he realised that his senses had become sharper. He could sense Chun Lan clearly every time she sent him food.

Simultaneously, the ache and numbness became less the more he trained.

The next few days, Wang Lin was completely absorbed in training all day and night. Finally on the fourth day, he had a breakthrough. He managed to extend the pose duration to ten minutes with a rest time of five.

At the tenth minute of the pose, Wang Lin felt his brain tremble. His whole body, including every inch of his skin, muscles, bones, blood

vessels and nerves experienced gushes of warmth. These gushes flowed through his entire body, as though it was crawling with ants.

Droplets of black liquid perspired from Wang Lin's pores, drenching his clothes.

As the sensation slowly wore off, Wang Lin breathed out a dark cloud of air and opened his eyes. At this point, his eyes became as clear as moonlight.

"There's finally a small breakthrough for the first illustration of Spiritual Enhancement Technique!" Wang Lin mumbled to himself. He was amazed to find that his whole body felt sticky. As he sniffed himself, his nose was greeted by an overwhelmingly foul smell.

Wang Lin immediately stood up, stripped and went to the bathroom to thoroughly clean his body. He was extremely delighted as the intense energy emanating from inside his body gave him an extra level of confidence!

"A small accomplishment after four days of training on the first illustration of Spiritual Enhancement Technique. That's quite slow. The initial plan was to accomplish this in three days. It seems that I still need to work harder in order to be able to hold the pose for one hour. That way, I can proceed to the second illustration." Wang Lin thought while cleaning his body.

Based on the record for the Spiritual Enhancement Technique, the fastest record for achieving a small accomplishment on the first illustration was three days. However, little did Wang Lin know that the

record holder had regularly submerged in precious herb water from a young age, leading to no impurities in the body. Thus, it's natural that the time needed to train was a lot shorter.

Aside from that person, others who had been training in the Spiritual Enhancement Technique would require months to achieve a small accomplishment on the first illustration.

05 The Emergence of Soul Power

After washing up, Wang Lin once again sat down on his bed to train.

A few days had passed since the minor accomplishment. Today, he was about to break the sixty minute mark. Sweat dripped from his forehead like rain drops. His body had actually reached its limit three days ago.

For the next three days, the time needed to rest was shortened down to ten seconds. He never stopped finding ways to maximize his body potential. Without extreme perseverance, one definitely would not be able to have such progress.

Armed with an iron will, Wang Lin managed to keep himself going. This high intensity training was very taxing on his body. In just three days time, he had become so much thinner.

Wang Lin, who was originally not very fleshy, looked even skinnier now.

Real kung fu belonged to resolute people. In the evening on the next day, he managed to hold the pose for one hour as he hoped.

The feeling of ants crawling throughout his body, like the ones from his minor accomplishment resurfaced. But this time, the feeling was much more intense. After holding the pose for three gritting hours, the energy emanating from all of his organs, bones and muscles combined together, forming a faint but tenacious soul power.

At this point, he achieved major accomplishment for the first illustration of Spiritual Enhancement Technique.

According to the records of the spell, once major accomplishment for the first illustration was achieved, soul power would be produced. The production of soul power meant that one's ability had reached Level 1.

Achieving the first level of soul power in just thirteen days would put one among the rare geniuses residing in the Empress Mainland. However, Wang Lin was not the fastest. The fastest one to achieve Level 1, did it in just five days!

After washing up, Wang Lin changed into some clean clothes and walked out of the room.

The stars in the sky were shining brightly. The autumn wind brought along with it the night's chill. Wang Lin was not in a rush to learn the second illustration; but was instead, silently savouring the soul power within his body.

Just by thinking about it, the soul power flowed into his right hand. Wang Lin gently hit the corner of the stone table. He indistinctly felt the table shake and then, suddenly, the corner broke.

Wang Lin raised his eyebrows, secretly admiring the soul power. Although only at Level 1, it did so much damage. However, he could feel that his soul power had dropped by half. At the same time, he was bleeding from a cut on his right hand. Fresh blood slowly dripped from his hand.

"Merely one use took so much soul power....." Wang Lin blinked his eyes, looking at the wound on his right hand. He suddenly gained enlightenment, "No, it is the way I used it. If I did not use so much soul power hitting the stone table, the energy probably wouldn't have depleted as much."

Thinking about this, Wang Lin immediately started experimenting. He slowly tried to control the flow of soul power into his right hand in order to find the right balance point. However, getting the precise control of the energy was easier said than done. It would wildly flow into his right hand each time he tried to muster the energy there.

Wang Lin did not give up. He continued his attempts, but it was impossible to control the energy precisely. Unknowingly, a great deal of time had passed. He let out a sigh, realizing that he had been impatient. It would take a long time to practice controlling his soul power.

Somehow he had the feeling that if he could control his energy precisely, he would only need one tenth of his soul power to break the corner of the table rather than just wasting half of it.

"It seems that from now on, other than routinely training Spiritual Enhancement Technique, I also need to use time to practice controlling my soul power. For now, the most important thing is to find a suitable method to use the energy for attacking. To muster it into both hands does not seem advisable for now, so how can I utilize this limited amount of soul power?"

Wang Lin muttered to himself. Suddenly, a light bulb lit in his brain. He

recalled how some of his soul power leaked from the wound before reaching the right hand the last time he tried controlling it.

This gave Wang Lin an idea. Maybe, by using this, he could find a suitable offensive strategy!

Without hesitating, he mustered all of his remaining soul power into his left index finger. Then, he aimed it at the stone table and in a swift motion, cut up the end of his fingertip. He restrained his soul power, as to not use too much. A drop of fresh blood, saturated with soul power, shot out fiercely, leaving a small hole on the stone table.

At the same time, the small cut on his index finger slowly healed,stimulated by the soul power.

Wang Lin was excited. This method of attacking was ingenious; it did not require much skill to control but could also achieve the desired effect. At present, it would make for an excellent weapon to defend himself with. Moreover, the destructive potential was satisfactory.

Wang Lin believed that he could further increase the damage inflicted by this method of attack through practice and by adjusting the amount of his soul power output. Perfect timing in restraining the dispensed energy was also of dire importance.

Thus, besides Spiritual Enhancement Technique and precision control of his soul power, Wang Lin added "perfecting the restraint of energy" onto his training list.

“However this is but a cheap trick. My body obviously cannot cope with the conventional attacking method. Seems like the solution is to improve my body strength!” Previously, through the conversation with Chun Lan, Wang Lin found out that the so-called soul power was in fact, a type of energy. In this world, there were two main ways of utilizing the soul power, namely Spiritual and Physical.

Wang Lin did not have much knowledge regarding Spiritual techniques. On the other hand, from the term of Physical Technique itself, he deduced that these techniques utilized a person’s body as the weapon to project one’s soul power.

It was unfortunate that the bookstore did not have any books regarding Physical technique training. But from Wang Lin’s understanding, this type of technique centered around using all kinds of methods to improve the inner strength of one’s body.

Thinking about this, Wang Lin decided to make a trip to the town tomorrow to purchase some equipment to help strengthen his body.

At this point, the sky was becoming bright. Wang Lin returned to his room, took a few pills and continued practicing the pose from the first illustration in bed. Time and tide waits for no man. Just as Wang Lin completed his third round of training, Chun Lan arrived with his breakfast.

After telling Chun Lan about his desire to purchase some equipments to train his body, they both left the mansion together.

Even though that was his second time walking on the streets, Wang Lin

still wasn't used to it. The feeling of being watched by people walking by made him feel uneasy.

After a while, with Chun Lan leading the way, they arrived at the equipment store. There were all sorts of strength building equipment in the store. Wang Lin carefully looked at each and every one of them and finally bought an equipment which was to his liking.

One thing worth mentioning was that because the equipment he bought was huge, the store gave him a storage card as a complimentary gift for his purchase. This piqued Wang Lin's curiosity.

This was the first time he heard of storage cards. Although it could only be used once, he could not help but feel fascinated. Secretly, he decided to get a reusable storage card which he could permanently use in the future.

Looking at Wang Lin's expression, Chun Lan covered her mouth and smiled, "This storage card is nothing out of the ordinary. Almost everyone has one. If you wish, I can bring you to buy one later."

Wang Lin was extremely delighted, nodding his head in agreement.

After paying the bills, both of them left the store. Suddenly, Wang Lin frowned. With lightning speed, he pulled Chun Lan a step backwards.

At the same time, a loud thunder was heard. A three metre long spear surrounded with electricity was dropped from the sky, piercing into the position where Chun Lan was standing moments ago. The ground split,

forming a cobweb pattern.

Chun Lan's face immediately paled, gratefully glancing at Wang Lin.

Wang Lin's expression turned grim as he looked up to see a Spring Water spacecraft hovering in mid air. On it stood a woman clad in armor. The armor was fitted to her body curves, making her extraordinarily attractive. Her short hair gracefully framing in her face. Although beautiful and charming, it now held a menacing look. Her right hand seemed to be shaking slightly.

"Ice Phoenix, one of the ten Honourables of Heavenly Water City. Is that all you have? I think I might have overestimated you in the past. Heh heh, I can't believe that you cannot even hold your weapons steadily." A loud voice echoed.

Wang Lin was stunned as it was actually the voice of a man!

There was a cold look in Ice Phoenix's eyes. She raised her right hand and the spear immediately flew from the ground, returning to her hand. In a voice full of hatred, she said, "Stone, today is your funeral."

"Stone! One of the ten most wanted fugitives in Spring Water Empire. Oh my god, how can it be him?"

"Wasn't he killed by the city governor a few years ago? How could he still be here?" Crowds were already fervently discussing amongst themselves on the ground.

Chun Lang's face paled. While pulling Wang Lin, she said, "We need to leave at once. Stone is a bloodthirsty barbarian with frightening power. I cannot believe he would appear in Heavenly Water City."

Wang Lin smirked, secretly thinking that this outside world was not as what he'd seen before. "Who is this Stone guy? He has quite the reputation."

"Heh heh, young lady. Do you think you are capable of killing me? I am bored of playing this little game with you. Come follow me home so we can make babies." The loud voice echoed again. A weird-looking figure was suddenly seen rushing out of a house, a trail of blurry shadows behind him, launching a punch at lightning speed.

When this punch traveled towards Ice Phoenix, 108 blocks of ice suddenly formed a round shield, protecting her.

With much uncertainty, Ice Phoenix's spacecraft immediately retreated.

"That attack was nothing. This is not the time for you to retreat. What you are now is nothing to me." Stone gave a big laugh and started punching more violently. One by one, the shield formed by the 108 ice blocks broke into pieces.

Ice Phoenix clenched her teeth and with a swift movement, she waved her spear and stabbed it towards Stone's fist.

Stone laughed wildly as his hand turned into a claw. He dodged the spear at unbelievable speed and grabbed it, he then gave it a strong pull.

Ice Phoenix's expression immediately changed. She wanted to release the spear but it was too late. Her body was sent flying towards her opponent. Stone punched her in the abdomen with his other arm, knocking her out before grabbing her and putting her over his shoulder.

He then proceeded to ruthlessly spank Ice Phoenix's bouncy buttocks while laughing. Looking at the crowd on the ground, he noticed Wang Lin and became momentarily stunned. There was a despicable look in his eyes as he spat towards Wang Lin before saying, "I see that there's a pet rabbit here. Leaving you here would be an embarrassment for all men. So, let me grant you a quick death!"

06 The Storage Card

Just as he was about to attack, Stone suddenly changed his mind. He decided to leave Wang Lin alone and using his shadow technique, he prepared to leave the area.

But it was too late. A round light shone down on him, trapping him like he was in a cage. The ice cold voice of a woman was heard saying, "Stone, let Ice Phoenix go and relinquish the item. Only then can I allow you to leave. Otherwise, do not blame me for being cruel."

At this time, Wang Lin's back was drenched in sweat. He withdrew the soul power he had collected in his index finger. Just now, Stone's eyes were full of killing intent. With Wang Lin's current ability, he wouldn't have stood a chance against him. If it weren't for the sudden turn of events, he would most likely have been annihilated.

"Whatever reason you have to kill me. Bear in mind that one day, I will have my revenge." Wang Lin stared at him coldly. He would show no mercy to any enemy who had any intention of killing him.

Stone looked exactly as barbaric as Chun Lan described him to be. He looked like he was in his thirties, having unkempt hair and yellow teeth. He was wrapped up in a few worn out rugs, his whole body dark and full of dirt.

"Hello old flame, we were actually husband and wife for a few days, so why don't you cut your former husband some slack?" Stone's pupils

constricted a little while he spoke out loud.

At the same time, a few figures were flying towards Heavenly Water City. Stone's facial expression changed. Taking out a black bottle, he quickly drank its contents. After letting out a soft cry, he smashed himself at the light barrier, shattering it.

Without saying much, he tried to immediately flee the scene. Behind his back, seven female figures in hot pursuit.

From a distance, Stone said, "I have the item you want. If you can stop me, it will be yours."

After they left, a battalion of spacecrafts with Honourables were seen appearing in the sky. The honourables were carefully scouring the surrounding buildings before leaving in a rush.

In the midst of the chaos, Wang Lin pulled Chun Lan and quietly left the scene. After they were far away from the crowd, Wang Lin looked at the building opposite of the equipment store and started to think. During Stone's battle, he noticed that Stone secretly glanced at the building a couple of times.

From their conversation, anyone could deduce that Stone had a precious item on him. The Honourables of Heavenly Water City were probably hunting him down because of this item.

After taking a careful look at the building, Wang Lin came to a realisation.

“That barbarian, Stone is scary. People say that he was killed by the City Governor a few years ago. But not only is he still alive, he’s even become more powerful, to the extent that the Heavenly Phoenix Honourables’ Breath Limiting Light failed to constrain him.” Chun Lan said while holding her chest in fear.

“Why do you call him a barbarian?” Wang Lin grew curious. Was it because of his attire?

“At the border near Spring Water Empire, there is an empty piece of land. That place is crawling with radioactive and fierce beasts. Barbarians were first seen appearing from that place. All of the barbarians have powers comparable to the Honourables and they love killing. They like to come into the city and kidnap girls. I hear those girls would then be brutally slaughtered later.” Saying this, Chun Lan couldn’t help but feel her body slightly tremble while she stared in the direction from which Stone fled towards.

Looking at Chun Lan’s current state, Wang Lin no longer insisted on buying the storage card, but his curiosity towards the barbarians had grown even more.

After going back to the mansion, Chun Lan bade farewell to Wang Lin and went back to her room to rest as she was still quite shaken by the events. Wang Li was also happy to be left alone. He took out the body strengthening equipment from the storage card and placed it in his yard.

After examining the equipment, Wang Lin started recalling the fight between Stone and Ice Phoenix, especially the last part where Stone was

looking at him with so much killing intent. This made Wang Lin feel uneasy.

He once again told himself that his current state was still far too weak. He needed to work harder to become stronger.

Another thing which worried him was Stone's speed; it was extremely fast. From this, Wang Lin deduced that Stone should be a Physical practitioner. Wang Lin knew that if Stone attacked him, he would not be able to dodge the attack.

After tying four blocks of five kilograms lead blocks to both his arms and legs, Wang Lin started exercising. With the extra twenty kilograms of weight, he was gasping for air.

"Hopefully, by doing this, I can improve my body's build and speed." Wang Lin took a deep breath and started running in the yard. He seemed to have the feeling that, in order to achieve his objective in Strength training, he needed to undergo a high intensity exercise for which he must work for to beyond the point of exhaustion.

Wang Lin's yard was not very big, but it was empty. After running around the yard for twenty rounds, Wang Lin started to feel dizzy. Both his legs were numb and aching while his arms felt heavy.

Feeling that he had yet to reach his limits, Wang Lin did not give up and continued running for another ten rounds. This time, his legs felt like they weighed a thousand pounds, with every step he took excruciating pain was coming from them. Both his arms were as if broken, hanging weakly at the shoulders.

The resilient part of Wang Lin, which was awakened by the black crystal, did not allow him to give up. His brain uncontrollably recalled Stone's frightening speed. Wang Lin clenched his teeth tight, dragged his feet, and continued to run for another five rounds before he collapsed on the ground, gasping for air.

Based on his past half month of experience training with the Spiritual Enhancement Technique, Wang Lin knew it was not advisable to abruptly stop moving when his body became tired. He struggled a bit before standing up again, lifting his arms up in pain. He was making the pose from the first illustration of the Spiritual Enhancement Technique.

Ten minutes later, Wang Lin's breathing became slower and calmer. Soul power was flowing inside his body. He could feel his muscles, which were previously numb, start getting a burning sensation. After one hour, Wang Lin opened both his eyes. His energy having completely recovered.

"This time, I must complete forty rounds!" Wang Lin once again stood up and started running in a circle.

This time it was easier. He managed to continue running for forty-two whole rounds before he again, collapsed on the ground in exhaustion. After training in the Spiritual Enhancement Technique for another hour, Wang Lin started running again.

Time passed quickly. When Wang Lin finished his tenth round of Spiritual Enhancement Technique training, it was already late at night.

After removing the lead blocks from his limbs, Wang Lin felt that his

movement had become more agile than before. He was very satisfied with the results of his training. Wang Lin thought to himself, "Now, I can manage fifty-four rounds at the most. I should continue training until I reach two hundred rounds before adding more weight."

He lifted his head and looked at the sky. The moon was covered up by dark clouds, the air was damp. Wang Lin muttered to himself. At this time, rain drops were seen falling from the sky.

"When it rains at night, vision becomes limited. Looks like God agrees with what I am doing tonight." Wang Lin brightly smiled, went back to his room and took out a dark jacket from the pile of clothes which Chun Lan had brought him. He then covered up his face with the dark jacket and quietly, left the yard.

After being guided by Chun Lan twice, Wang Lin had memorised the entire route, including the spots where there were hidden guardposts.

After carefully evading a group of guards, Wang Lin left the mansion. Standing outside of the mansion, he turned around and laughed in his heart. This mansion was not large, its defence was also pretty weak. As long as he didn't go against the restrictions set by the residence's owner, he would be fine.

From conversing with Chun Lan, Wang Lin found out that ever since San Xiao Jie contracted the Mandara disease, she had been deserted by her family. She was isolated and only managed to bring a handful of servants with her to Heavenly Water City, which was far away from her family.

The security at the mansion was also weak. In addition, San Xiao Jie did

not add any more restrictions on Wang Lin after he consumed the poison, as she believed Wang Lin's fate was now firmly in her hands.

Currently, Wang Lin still had a lot of worries. His body was not as strong as he wanted. Moreover, the worm inside his body remained an unresolved issue. Otherwise, he could have easily left.

Wang Lin knew that time was not on his side. Without any hesitation, he immediately ran in the direction his memory led him towards. His speed had become remarkably faster after a day worth of intense training.

The rain became heavier. The raindrops made a lot of noise upon hitting the ground, as though hinting of an impending storm.

In order to avoid being found, Wang Lin stealthily moved between the buildings shadows. After a while, he arrived at the building which Stone had taken a particular interest in.

First, he carefully observed his surroundings in order to make sure that there was nothing out of the ordinary. Wang Lin muttered to himself. That day, the Honourables of Heavenly Water City had thoroughly searched the nearby houses. If there was something hidden inside them, it would already have been found. But if he was in Stone's shoes, where would he hide it so that it would not be found?

Regardless of whether inside or underneath the house, it would be difficult to go undiscovered by the Honourables' strict search. Wang Lin frowned. He looked at the building wall and suddenly got an idea. He thought to himself, "If I were to hide something, I would not hide it in the rooms or underground. Instead, I would put it at a somewhat obvious

location, such as the wall outside.”

Wang Lin carefully inspected the wall, gently percussing it. When he was about to finish inspecting it, a glimpse of excitement appeared in his eyes. He took out a brick and removed the black storage card hidden behind it.

Without checking the card any further, Wang Lin’s steps suddenly stopped. He kneeled down at the corner of the wall and remained still. His pupils constricted and he halted his breaths.

A Spring Water spacecraft had silently appeared in mid air, slowly roaming around the area before stopping right above the building Wang Lin was hiding in.

A soft machine like sound was heard and a long haired lady appeared on the spacecraft.

Wang Lin’s was hiding in the shadows beside the wall. He hesitated a while, then mustered his soul power into his left hand and let out five drops of blood filled with soul power. At the same he started running, making his escape.

“Heh, you finally show yourself?” The lady cynically smiled. She had already discovered Wang Lin and was planning to capture him alive. But, Wang Lin acted first. Despite that, she was not too concerned. After all, she already had the title of a Spiritual Honourable. Upon a quick assessment, she knew that Wang Lin was only at Level 1. However, as the vision on a rainy night was quite limited, she was shocked when she was greeted by the five blood drops launched by Wang Lin.

One of the five drops gave off a “zis” like sound upon hitting her shoulder. The lady became stunned and moved to the side to evade the other attacks. But before Wang Lin launched his attacks, he had already predicted the lady’s reaction. The remaining 4 drops of blood were spread out on both the right and left sides.

07 Blood Binding Technique

When the lady moved to the left in an attempt to evade, her right wrist got hit by a drop of blood. It was then followed by numbness from her left leg. Similarly, her left knee had been hit by another drop of blood.

Although the damage done by the blood was limited, the lady was still shocked by the opponent's accurate predictions. As the attacks did not harm her at all, she let out a cold laugh. Suddenly she realised that the attacks used were made out of fresh blood! Her face immediately turned from curious to a terrified, pale look. In the Empress Mainland, there was only one technique which utilised blood to attack!

"This..... This must be the Blood Binding Technique!!"

All of this seemed to be happening slowly, but it actually only took a few seconds. At this time, Wang Lin was already ten metres away from her. Overhearing what she said he turned his head, giving her a cold look. He knew that his attack power was insufficient. Without saying anything, he moved his left hand, once again sent out a drop of fresh blood, directly aimed at her right eye.

At the same time, using a low-pitched hoarse voice, he said, "That's right. This is the Blood Binding Technique!"

After doing this, without turning back again, Wang Lin ran for his life. He could roughly estimate the distance between himself and the Honourable. He muttered to himself that tonight had been very

dangerous. If he were to be caught, the first thing he would need to say would be that he was from the mansion so that he would not get killed. Regarding the Blood Binding Technique the lady mentioned, he was also surprised. Was there really a type of technique which utilised blood for attacking?

If that is true, then all he did would not have been for nothing. As the lady was still shocked, now would be the best opportunity to escape!

Wang Lin ice cold look was seen by the lady. She suddenly got chills in her heart. It was said that in the east, the extremely poisonous and lethal Blood Binding Technique was practised in the Green Dragon City, which was one of the four big free cities. She recalled the rumours about how the victims of these attacks would die gruesome deaths.

When she saw Wang Lin raising his left hand, she wanted to evade but Wang Lin's timing was too perfect. At that time, her knee was both aching and numb. As she was unable to evade, she subconsciously raised up her left hand to defend herself.

The lady's left hand suddenly felt cold. She looked at the back of her hand and saw a drop of fresh blood. After a moment of hesitation, she raised her head, but Wang Lin was long gone.

After carefully returning to the mansion, Wang Lin felt weary. This was his first battle. He managed to escape unscathed because the opponent mistakenly thought that his attack was the Blood Binding Technique! Wang Lin learned a good lesson from this. He told himself to be such reckless again unless he gained enough strength.

In regards to the Blood Binding Technique, Wang Lin had a good feeling. He took a deep breath and calmed himself down. Then, he took out the storage card which he had taken from within the wall.....

Time flew by. Soon, it had been two months since Wang Lin started living in the mansion. Today Wang Lin was training in the Spiritual Enhancement Technique. Suddenly, he frowned, halted his training and stood up.

After a while, someone knocked on his door. Chun Lan's voice came from the other side.

"Wang Lin, Xiao Jie asked me to come get her medicine. Have you prepared it?"

"It will be done shortly. It should be ready by dinner time." Wang Lin opened his door while gently smiling at Chun Lan.

Chun Lan stared at Wang Lin for a bit, making her face blush. She secretly thought about how this man look so different after only half a month of not seeing him. His eyes were now full of spirit. The difference in his demeanor was like heaven and earth compared to previously.

"I.....I..... Xiao Jie is still waiting for reply, so.....so I will come back tonight." Chun Lan face was all red now. She stole a glance at Wang Lin, realising that Wang Lin was smiling she immediately became even more embarrassed and left the place in hurry.

Wang Lin knew that during the past half month, he had changed a lot.

It's as if he had a breakthrough every day. This was all possible thanks to the pills that he found inside the black storage card.

Thinking about the storage card, there was glimpses of excitement on his face. Besides the two pills in the card, there were a sheathed black dagger and some scattered fragments.

Wang Lin had tried using the dagger. It was so sharp and hard that it could possibly even cut through metals. Wang Lin especially loved this dagger, so instead of putting it in the storage card, he always carried it with him.

Out of the two pills, Wang Lin had taken one to experiment on. After being fairly certain that it was not poison, he consumed the remaining pill. Merely one pill was enough to make him feel like his body and bones had been refreshed. Large amount of toxins and waste materials were excreted from his pores. The blood vessels in his body expanded and the muscles became even leaner and tougher.

Although his soul power did not increase, Wang Lin still had a good feeling about these pills. After training for so long, he somehow understood that the amount of soul power in his body was determined by the size of his blood veins. This was also the reason which limited his ability to improve his soul power.

Since the pills contained such an amazing ability of expanding one's circulation system, Wang Lin guessed that these must have be what the Honourables were looking for. It was such a pity that he had used one of the pills for experimenting. Every time he thought about this, Wang Lin felt his heart ache.

Other than these two things, there was also a face mask made out of artificial human skin inside the storage card. This also made Wang Lin very excited. With this mask, he knew that he could have a higher chance of escaping in the future.

During the past half month, Wang Lin's improvements were not small. His training in the second illustration of Spiritual Enhancement Technique had reached a 55 percent progress. His soul power had also improved a lot. However, he was a bit troubled by the fact that, from 55 percent and onwards, his training progress seemed to have been hampered. Each time he wanted to train further, the most he could stretch it was with a few more extra seconds. Even if he wanted to go further, he would be overwhelmed by incredible pain.

Wang Lin knew in his heart, that this was probably caused by the parasite inside his body. The worm was more careful now. After causing pain, it would immediately hide itself. It was nowhere to be found no matter how hard Wang Lin searched.

Regarding this, after thinking about it long and hard, Wang Lin came to a decision. Tonight would be the crucial time for solving this problem.

Wang Lin was quite satisfied with the progress of his body strengthening. Currently, he was able to carry fifty kilograms of extra weight while continuously running seventy rounds with it.

Wang Lin's target was two hundred kilograms and two hundred rounds!

The thing that satisfied him the least, was the precision control over his

soul power. In this half month's time, he'd only slightly improved in terms of control. After mustering soul power into his hand, the time needed to make a cut with his other hand, had only become a little shorter.

Wang Lin knew that the perfect control over his soul power would take time. He should now focus on preparing the medicines for Xiao Jie.

Three days ago, for the first time, Wang Lin spend time to attempt preparing the herbs. He ground a few herbs according to a specific ratio, turning them into a mush. Even though it did not look too appealing, it should work.

Just to be safe, Wang Lin also added some other herbs into the mixture.

The reason that he told Chun Lan to get the medicine at night, was because Wang Lin was still worried that they would figure out the contents of this mush.

After thinking for a while, Wang Lin got a playful idea. He recalled the piece of the worm he'd taken out from his body last month. Thinking about it, he took out the worm piece from his storage card, cutting a small piece of it and mixed it into the medicine.

After doing this, Wang Lin went to the yard and continued his training.

Time passed quickly. Soon it was dusk and Chun Lan arrived.

After bathing Wang Lin removed the lead blocks from his body. This was the first time in half a month that he removed the blocks. A feeling of

lightness spread throughout his body. Wang Lin subtly touched his dagger then followed Chun Lan.

This was the second time that he visited San Xiao Jie's residence. Wang Lin continued walking and entered her residence while Chun Lan waited outside.

Wang Popo's figure appeared behind Wang Lin like an apparition. There was a surprise look in her dark eyes. She said, "Young man, you seemed to have changed quite a lot. Follow me now."

San Xiao Jie's room looked just like last time, but she seemed to have become thinner. From Wang Lin's sharp observation, he realised that both her eyes looked dead.

"In one month's time, both her eyes deteriorated to such an extent. This Corpse Flower Poison is really scary. But, her current condition should be advantageous to me." Wang Lin was deep in thoughts. San Xiao Jie slowly turned her head. Both blurry eyes looked at the direction where Wang Lin was standing. Her face gently trembled, followed by the question, "Where's the medicine?"

"Where's my cure?" Wang Lin said uncaringly.

San Xiao Jie immediately tossed something from her right hand which Wang Lin caught, it was a red-coloured pill. Emotionlessly, Wang Lin said, "If this pill is something else, you won't be getting medicine from me next month."

“The poison in your body is slow to take effect. Every month, you would have an attack once. What I have given you is not the entire cure, but it’s definitely not fake.” San Xiao Jie seemed to be a bit impatient, her voice turning slightly cold.

“Take this immediately. This pill will lose its efficiency if it’s consumed more than three minutes after preparation. You have less than ten seconds worth of time left.” Wang Lin did not speak any further and immediately tossed a pill towards San Xiao Jie.

The lady was shocked. Upon catching the pill she hesitated slightly before swallowing it.

Wang Lin looked deeply into San Xiao Jie’s eyes. Then, he turned around and walked away without looking back.

Not long after Wang Lin left, Wang Popo appeared behind the lady out of nowhere. Her dry, skinny hand pressed onto San Xiao Jie’s back. At that time, San Xiao Jie’s face turned red. Then, with a “pfff”, she vomited out a mouthful of dark blood.

The Mastery of Soul Power

Translated by : Skynode

Edited by : Ziltch

“This medicine, it really can treat Mandara disease!” San Xiao Jie opened both her eyes now brimming with joy. After a while, she said regretfully, “Too bad that just now I was pressured into consuming the medicine quickly. Otherwise, I would have carefully analysed the medicinal contents of the medication. . Once I find out what the ingredients are, I will kill Wang Lin myself. No one can threaten Zi Yan me, especially not a mere male slave.”

“Xiao Jie, this young man is extremely clever. It will not be easy to figure out the ingredients used in the medicine. Too bad the family did not dispatch Spiritual Fighters who specialise in the art of sensing here. Otherwise, we could have sent them to observe Wang Lin. That way, it would have been much easier to obtain the medicine formula.” Wang Popo sighed while looking at San Xiao Jie with much love before continuing, “In addition, this young man’s ability has improved significantly. In merely a month’s time, he has achieved Level 1.”

“Spiritual Fighters..... Ever since I contracted this disease, the other family members have avoided me like the plague. How could they send the rare Spiritual Fighters to help me..... Hmph, when Da Jie is released from prison, she will definitely come to see me..... Regarding this, Wang Lin, he is just at Level 1. That is nothing at all. With the Soul Power Diminishing Worm inside his body, he will never be able to advance beyond Level 3!” San Xiao Jie’s eyes were full of hatred and contempt. She hated Wang Lin very much. A male slave who dared to threaten her. If it wasn’t for his ability to treat Mandara disease, she would have killed him already. The pride of the Phoenix Race was more important than anything

else. She continued saying :

“Moreover, I have given him the book containing the Hell Raiser Technique. I do not believe that he can withstand the urge to learn a Grade D spell. Once he starts training in it, he will be dead. I have also laced his daily food with soul dispersing poison. After he had taken a considerable amount of the poison into his body, Wang Popo you just need to use the Soul Chain Technique on him. At that time, under the influence of Soul Dispersing Poison, the success rate would be higher.”

Wang Popo hesitated. She opened her mouth, wanting to say something but decided not to. Instead, she sighed deeply in her heart.

Wang Lin went back to his room. He knew that he had won himself yet another month of time.

Wang Lin took out the medicine given to him by San Xiao Jie and analysed it for almost half a day. Using his dagger, he cut it into two parts. Finally, he reconsidered his plan, making sure that it was as flawless as possible before continuing to train in the second illustration of the Spiritual Enhancement Technique.

Fifty-five minutes and thirteen seconds later, Wang Lin suddenly opened his eyes. His body was experiencing extreme pain. He swallowed the first half of the pill.

Based on the past encounters, Wang Lin knew very well that the worm inside him would inflict pain to interrupt his training and then, immediately hide deeply within his body as to avoid detection. However, this time, because he took the medicine, he could clearly feel a slight

tremor coming from the deepest layer of his lower abdomen.

It was as though the worm was hesitating, then it immediately moved towards Wang Lin's intestine. At that time, the pill that had turned into liquid, was flowing in there.

The worm was unable to resist the temptation of the medicine. Wang Lin smirked and mustered soul power into two of his fingers on his right hand and poked into his intestine. The worm, alerted to the danger, did not want to give up on the medicine. Due to this inner conflict, Wang Lin was able to catch the worm between his fingers.

The worm let out a sharp shriek. Immediately Wang Lin felt intense pain and became drenched in his own sweat. When he removed his fingers, he saw about a $\frac{1}{3}$ of the worm's body between them.

"This worm is really intelligent. In order to survive, it cut itself up. However, its soul power has now suffered a lot of damage. The next time it acts should be its funeral!" Wang Lin smirked with a cynical expression on his face.

Without the worm in his way any longer, Wang Lin managed to complete the second illustration of Spiritual Enhancement Technique that very day. His wound also slowly recovered under the stimulation of his soul power. After washing away the black toxins excreted from his body, he immediately started training on his soul power control.

His schedule was densely packed now. Every day, he would spend fifteen hours training his body strength and in the Spiritual Enhancement Technique, four hours on mustering power to his fingers, four hours on

soul power control and finally, one hour to rest.

Wang Lin somehow felt that the forceful method which he used to control his soul power now, was incorrect. After thinking for long and hard, he took out a metal ball from the stack of equipment he bought.

This metal ball was a high-tech product made in the Spring Water Empire. It was mainly used to train against explosives and for defence. The stronger the energy on impact, the stronger the energy reflected by it.

Based on this attribute, Wang Lin utilised it to train in the control of his soul power. He first put the metal ball in his right palm. He then mustered all his soul power into his right hand, releasing it bit by bit. The metal ball immediately sprang up, reflected against the ceiling before falling down again.

Wang Lin held the metal ball and continued trying.

Even after repeated failed attempts, Wang Lin still did not give up. He tried recalling the reasons why he failed. Soul power was not controlled well. All of his soul power would flow out uncontrollably even though he tried limiting it. It was all or nothing. In the past, he always forcefully controlled the soul power so that not all of it would flow out. He wanted to increase the amount of soul power output bit by bit so that it would not go waste. Looking at the current situation, he might as well not try to control it.

Since he was unable to increase his soul power output bit by bit, he was thinking of letting it all go out at once. Then from there, he would learn

how to decrease the soul power output bit by bit. The desired result should be similar.

Wang Lin felt that there was improvements with the new training regime. The objective he set was every time the metal ball sprang up, it should reach the same height.

Based on Wang Lin's calculation in the yard, the height which the metal ball could reach was around twenty-two metres if he let out all the soul power in one go.

In that case, he decided to start with twenty-two metres. Wang Lin knew that, with the training of Spiritual Enhancement Technique, his soul power would increase day-by-day. To make the metal ball go higher was easy, but to slowly reduce the height from twenty-two metres was difficult. This would require precision in restrain and control.

That was what Wang Ling needed to practise.

After setting himself a goal, Wang Lin modified his training plan. Every time, he would first train in the Spiritual Enhancement Technique. After having plenty of soul power, he would train with the metal ball. After he depleted his soul power, he would train his body strength by running in circles with weights attached. When his body became exhausted, he would start from the beginning again.

Wang Lin named this series of training "The Soul Power Loop".

Time passed by quickly.

On this day, Wang Lin had just finished running one hundred and eighty rounds with eighty kilograms of weight attached. He was extremely exhausted. After taking some herbs to replenish his energy, he continued training in the Spiritual Enhancement Technique.

Halfway through training, he frowned. Wang Lin let out a sigh and opened both his eyes.

"He's here again. I need to figure out something so that he won't keep bothering me."

At this time, from outside the yard came a soft voice, "Brother Wang, I beg you. Please take me in as your disciple."

A servant who was dressed in grey with a nervous face walked carefully. He did not dare to go near Wang Lin and just stood at the far end of the entrance.

"Wang Mang, for the last time, I am not going to take you on as my disciple, and I do not even have the ability to do so. In the future, please do not come and bug me anymore. Or else, I will not be as nice as now. Please leave." Wang Lin impatiently waved his hand.

Wang Mang was one of the subjects who were brought to the mansion together with Wang Lin. His luck was good. He was supposed to serve San Xiao Jie after Wang Lin. After San Xiao Jie heard what Wang Lin told her, she decided to not find anyone else to have sex with her. As a result, Wang Mang survived and became a servant at the mansion. From Chun Lan, Wang Mang found out that Wang Lin drastically changed within the

last half month. When he heard that Wang Lin's originally dull face had become handsome, he was excited.

"Brother Wang, I beg you. I don't mind bowing my head to you. Since both of us came from Jian Yu Island, why don't you help me." Wang Mang immediately knelt on the ground and begged.

Wang Lin's eyebrows frowned even more now. His eyes turning ice cold. He said in a low voice, "You, disappear from my sight, now."

With Wang Lin's sharp stare, Wang Mang's heart shivered. He immediately stood up, hesitating for a while before swiftly leaving. Before leaving, there were flashes of resentment in his eyes.

Wang Lin managed to catch a glimpse of Wang Mang's expression before he left. Wang Mang had bothered him for many days now. The reason was that he noticed Wang Lin changed a lot in terms of appearance and wanted to learn how.

Regarding the motives, Wang Lin found out from Chun Lan that in the Spring Water Empire, if the male servants had good appearance and could serve the masters well, they would receive better treatments from them.

Wang Mang had ordinary looks. In order to better survive, he would not easily give up on any ways that could improve his attractiveness.

However, Wang Lin was unable to help as he changed after taking the mysterious pill. Thinking about it, Wang Ling suddenly became fearful.

What if people noticed the massive change in him, especially the long-haired woman whom he encountered the other night.

Following this, Wang Lin started to come out with points to deny his thought. First, when he was fighting with the opponent, it was only for a few seconds and he covered his face. In addition, the night time visibility was bad. The probability of him being recognised was slim.

Secondly, the Spiritual Enhancement Technique had the ability to excrete the toxins within the body. Even though he had changed a lot, this could be used to explain the change.

However, he decided to be more careful in the future.

Wang Lin continued his training. He would soon complete the third illustration of Spiritual Enhancement Technique. According the records on this technique, once one had completed the third illustration, he or she could possibly gain an ability known as "Spirit Sensing". Whether one would be able to gain the ability or not, would depend on his or her own talents.

Wang Lin was extremely interested in this ability because it was clearly stated in the record, the meaning of "Soul Sensing" was a dramatic increase in the human body's ability to sense.

Regarding this sensing ability, Wang Lin knew of its benefits. After he embarked on his training in the Spiritual Enhancement Technique, his sensing ability increased day by day. Be it sensing the arrival of the Spring Water spacecraft before the fight with the long-haired woman warrior, or the day when he rescued Chun Lan from a spear, all these

events had everything to do with sensing.

Another obvious point was that whenever someone was within ten metres of Wang Lin's courtyard, he would be able to sense him or her. With so many benefits coming with it, Wang Lin was very hopeful about getting this ability, which would drastically improve his sensing ability.

Moreover, Wang Lin had a feeling that the improvement in his sensing ability would become a catalyst for the mastery of soul power control using the metal ball.

Even though he could now manage to perfectly maintain the metal ball at a twenty-two metres height four to five out of ten times, Wang Lin was still not satisfied.

He needed to perfectly control the metal ball at twenty-two metres each time. This way, he could proceed to try and control the height of the metal ball to twenty-one metres.

The lower the height, the greater the difficulty to control it became.

All these things would depend on whether or not he could achieve "Spirit Sensing" after completing his training on the third illustration.

In order to expedite the process, Wang Lin temporarily stopped training his body strength and metal ball control, focusing all of his effort on the Spiritual Enhancement Technique.

09 Save Me, Honourable!

The pose in the third illustration was weirder than the first two. One could not sit but needed to stand while doing it.

With the body supported from the tip of the big toe, both arms wrapped around the body, and the other leg lifted and held close to the body; balance was by far the most challenging part for this strange pose. A slight lapse in focus would cause one to topple over.

After practicing for a long time, Wang Lin gradually got the sense of it. He had to focus all of his energy to control his body's balance. This required him to control every single breath and movement of his muscles.

The training progression in the third illustration was also the slowest compared to the others. After spending almost half a month, he only managed to hold it for fifty-eight minutes.

Again and again, day after day he trained until it was midnight. Before one day, he finally managed to hold the pose for sixty minutes!

Based on his experience with the previous two illustrations, every time he trained to the sixty-minute mark, he would have an intense feeling. Surprisingly though, it was already sixty minutes, yet he did not feel a thing.

At sixty-two minutes, Wang Lin reached his limits. He went back to his

resting position and started thinking.

“Why is the third illustration so strange? According to the record, it was stated that, for every illustration, if one managed to hold the pose for sixty minutes, he or she would be able to achieve the major accomplishment. The last two illustrations were exactly as stated. But now that I have managed this third illustration for sixty-two minutes, I still do not feel that I have reached the accomplishment. Does this have something to do with the Spirit Sensing ability? Or does this mean that I do not have the talent for Spirit Sensing?”

Actually, Wang Lin’s guess was basically correct. He did not possess the talent of Spirit Sensing.

Wang Lin hesitated a bit. According to the book, once one managed to hold a pose for sixty minutes, he or she could move on to the next illustration. So he was in a dilemma of whether to, continue his training in the third illustration, or ignore it and start training on the fourth illustration.

“If sixty minutes doesn’t make the cut, I will go for eighty. If eighty minutes is not enough, I will continue training until I reach the one hundred-twenty minutes mark. I believe that with perseverance, I should be able to achieve the major accomplishment.” In order to gain the Spirit Sensing ability, Wang Lin decided to give it his all. He would prefer not to start learning the fourth illustration yet in order to achieve the major accomplishment of the third illustration.

After deciding, Wang Lin once again stopped the other training exercises, and focused solely on training in the strange third illustration.

As the days went by, he managed to hold the pose longer; seventy minutes, eighty minutes, one hundred minutes, one hundred-twenty minutes, up to one hundred-fifty minutes. But to his dismay, Wang Lin found out that he still did not achieve the feeling of a major accomplishment. Spirit Sensing was still not acquired.

Soon, it would be time to prepare more medicine for San Xiao Jie. In despair, Wang Lin decided that if he still could not achieve the major accomplishment by two-hundred minutes, he would give up on it. His time was way too precious to be wasted like this. In regards to "Spirit Sensing", it would remain a dream.

Three days later came the day he would need to prepare the medicine. Wang Lin extended the pose time to a hundred-and-seventy-nine minutes. Seconds went by slowly, ten seconds, thirty seconds, forty-five seconds, fifty-nine seconds.

Sixty seconds!

At this moment, Wang Lin suddenly felt something snap inside his head! From his body, thousands of specks of lights gradually appeared, filling the atmosphere around him. Wang Lin became shocked! All of these lights, they were actually the soul power which he had vigorously cultivated for the past two months!

These specks of lights then rapidly formed into layers upon layers of wavy silver radiance. Spreading out from all over his body, filling the air around him.

During the appearance of the radiance, Wang Lin felt small vibrations in his brain. He stared at the wavy radiance. An extremely familiar feeling appeared but disappeared in an instant. No matter how much Wang Lin tried to get it back, he couldn't.....

Following the appearance of the light specks, the layers of radiance that formed was seen going in and out of Wang Lin's body continuously, as though orbiting him. The first thing affected was Wang Lin's blood vessels and nerves, followed by his muscles and bones which slowly started to vibrate under the influence of the silver radiance.

After a wave of radiance disappeared, another would immediately come out.

Numbness, itchiness, aches, sores..... All sorts of indescribable, negative sensations were sent as feedbacks from Wang Lin's body to his mind. The feeling of countless insects gnawing on the inside of his body was unbearable. At this time however, the part of Wang Lin that was filled with unswerving determination once again came alive. Clenching his teeth, Wang Lin vaguely felt that if he could not withstand this, all the soul power which he had gained through the two months of hard work would go to waste. This was a price which he could not afford to pay.

Luckily, the amount of soul power in Wang Lin's body was not much. After it dropped down to a certain amount, the light stopped appearing. The vibrations from the silver radiance became weaker and weaker. Finally, all of the silver radiance gathered at Wang Lin forehead, forming a ripple of light, slowly being absorbed into his body.

It was then followed by formless and invisible waves of energy violently spreading out from Wang Lin's body. Twenty metres, thirty metres, fifty

metres, one hundred metres, one hundred forty metres, one hundred eighty metres.....

It continued spreading beyond two hundred metres, then rapidly shrank. Two hundred metres, one hundred metres..... ten metres!

The energy force repeatedly moved in and out of Wang Lin's body. Sometimes it shrank to a radius of thirty to fifty metres; sometimes it expanded to two hundred metres. After a few times of expanding and shrinking, it finally remained stable around a radius of one hundred metres.

At this time, Wang Lin opened both his eyes, where a silver light flashed. In an instant, he could sense the movement of the wind, every blade of grass moving within a one-hundred metre radius.

"Is this..... Spirit Sensing?" Wang Lin was stunned. He was still trepidatiously trying to process what just happened.

But Wang Lin felt strange as according to description of the Spiritual Enhancement Technique, Spirit Sensing could increase the ability to sense, but at most it would only be extended to fifty metres. Now though, he could actually sense everything within a hundred metre radius. Moreover, the silver waves of radiance formed from his soul power gave him a feeling of familiarity. He did not know why the soul power could turn into silver radiance, but it was as though a voice within him kept telling him that the silver radiance really belonged to him.....

Suddenly, he got a strange idea.

If I can maintain the radiance formed by soul power, it would be a big leap for my power and level. He lifted up his right index finger, trying to project his soul power from it. Sadly, the wave of radiance was nowhere to be seen.

No matter how hard he tried, he could not manage to understand his power. Wang Lin decided to blame this on the crystal that he found at Jian Yu Island.

After that, Wang Lin tried measuring the soul power in his body. When the soul power turned into light and spreading out from his body, he was really worried that the power would be diminished. His qualm was only relieved when at last the radiance turned into a round light and was absorbed into his body. After checking, he found out that his soul power had not decreased.

At this time, Wang Lin became excited. He took out the metal ball and after attempting his experiment ten times, he became extremely delighted as he could maintain a twenty-two metres height for a period of seven to eight seconds. This meant that his control over his soul power had improved a lot as compared to previously.

"Looks like the increase in sensing ability can really improve the control of soul power." Wang Lin took a deep breath and thought to himself, "Higher the risk, higher the return!"

According to the record of Spiritual Enhancement Technique, after attaining the Spirit Sensing ability, one would need to meditate for twenty-four hours to consolidate his or her senses. Even though his sensing ability slightly differs from what was described, Wang Lin decided to meditate for one day.

This day was the most relaxing day for Wang Lin since he left Jian Yu Island. He did not need to train his body strength, Spiritual Enhancement Technique or Soul Power control. He just had to quietly sit in his room, emitting all the senses and slowly grasping them.

Whatever was happening within a one-hundred metre radius; conversation between guards, gushing sound of water flowing, even the fragrance of the flowers — appeared in Wang Lin's senses.

Suddenly, Wang Lin's expression changed. There was very serious look on his face. He focused all his sensing ability on a rock garden in the southeast direction.

An unclear, shaking voice, full of despair sounded.

"Save me..... Save me My Honourable..... Please save me My Honourable....."

The voice was eerie, piercing into the heart, causing a ripple effect which lasted for a long time. It made one's feeling uncontrollably rise and sink according to its tone.

In horror, Wang Lin immediately stopped his sensing ability. For the first time, there was fear on his face while he looked towards the direction of the voice.

"Hey? Save me..... Save me....." It was as though the voice managed to locate Wang Lin and started calling him again. Even though Wang Lin

had stopped sensing, the crystal clear voice was projected into his ears.

Wang Lin did not know what to do. No matter how he tried to shut away his sensing ability, the voice kept bugging him in his head.

"Save me..... Save me My Honourable..... Save me....."

"Shut up!" After being disturbed by the voice for some time, Wang Lin grew impatient and shouted. He did not care whether the opponent was able to hear him or not.

"Save me..... I can give you a hundred Venus pills. I can pass down Grade A Spells to you. If only you save me....."

010 First Blood

Venus pill? Even though Wang Lin had never heard of such a pill, he thought that it should be a rare item. He let out a sigh, silently thinking about how eerie that voice was. He felt that he did not possess the ability to save that person. Thus, no matter how much the voice pleaded, he chose to turn a deaf ear. Slowly, the sky turned brighter; the voice also disappeared.

The twenty-four hours of meditation time that was required by the Spiritual Enhancement Technique, had not been fulfilled. Wang Lin hesitated and decided not to use his sensing ability, fearing that he might once again attract the eerie voice.

Today would be the second time Wang Lin had to prepare medicines for San Xiao Jie. Wang Lin prepared the medicines with great ease. This time, other than taking bits from the worm's body, he specially included some other "good materials". The dark toxins excreted from his sweat pores.

Other than that, Wang Lin also changed some of the herbs used to make the pill. Although the potency of the pill would be reduced by half, it would be good enough as long as it prevented the disease from worsening.

After a while, Chun Lan brought him breakfast. Wang Lin threw the pill to Chun Lan and reminding her, "This medicine must be taken within three minutes. You tell Xiao Jie that every course of treatment will require

a month to prepare. If she doesn't take this pill in time the efficacy will start to wear off, there's nothing I can do."

Once Chun Lan heard that, her face turned pale in fear. She immediately put down the dishes, quickly grabbed the pill and left in a rush.

The third illustration of The Spiritual Enhancement Technique had finally been mastered. The moment when Wang Lin attained the "Spirit Sensing" ability, he experienced a feeling of satisfaction, and a feeling of saturation of power which he had longed for.

Because he had focused the past half month of training on the third illustration, he had neglected much on his body strengthening exercises. Wang Lin thus decided to increase the intensity of his body strengthening exercises. He put on a weight of one hundred kilograms and started running.

Day by day, Wang Lin's physical strength drastically improved. There was also no excess fat on his body. Even though he looked lean, his body was full of energy.

Today, after completing one hundred rounds of running with one hundred and twenty kilograms, Wang Lin still felt that he had energy in excess. Therefore, he took out lead blocks from the storage card, hoping to add on an extra twenty kilograms. With the addition, his face changed colour suddenly. Raising his head he saw there was someone standing at the door, appearing out of nowhere.

Wang Lin's pupils constricted. This person was actually a man, and Wang Lin only sensed him when he was within thirty metres away!

He was a handsome man clothed in pure white garments. His shoes were black, with two red dragons stitched on each side of each shoe. Long blonde hair that was let loose behind his head, his eyes looking at Wang Lin in an electrifying and cynical way.

"You are Wang Lin?" The man's gaze became even more cynical.

Wang Lin nodded his head, expressionlessly.

"Very good. I was looking for you!" The man's eyes filled up with killing intent. He swiftly leaped into the sky, making a fist with his right hand, and cried, "Die!"

Wang Lin retreated quickly, putting a lead brick in front of his chest to stop the man's punch.

The man was unbothered by this and once again shouted, "Break!"

The lead block let out a cracking sound as it was broken into pieces, but Wang Lin remained unafraid. With a quick fling of his right hand, a black dagger appeared and he directed it towards the man's throat.

The man frowned, he believed that his punch would definitely kill his opponent, but the opponent's dagger was very strange. Even before it was near his body, his throat already felt ice cold. Moreover, he simply could not kill Wang Lin as he was currently San Xiao Jie's favourite. The purpose of giving him a warning had been achieved. After analysing the entire situation, the man coldly sniggered and released his fist.

"You are merely at Level One, not worthy of being exterminated by my Level Two soul power. The punch just now, was a warning." The man started to laugh arrogantly.

"Who are you?" Both Wang Lin's eyes slightly narrowed as he asked calmly.

"Mu Hai! One of San Xiao Jie's ten greatest war slaves!" Mu Hai looked around. There was a hint of jealousy in his eyes. He continued saying, "I was away for the past four months for some duty far away. After coming back, I can't believe it when I heard from Wang Mang that San Xiao Jie actually gifted you a courtyard for yourself. Thus, I have purposely come to see with my very own eyes what ability you possess to be worthy of all this. Sadly, I am deeply disappointed."

After saying that, Mu Hai gave an evil smile. There was a strong killing intent in his eyes. He thought to himself, "This man's looks are not as good as mine, but he has a unique cool vibe. No wonder he got San Xiao Jie's attention. Hmph, today too many people had seen me come here. I will temporarily let him live. When night falls, I shall quietly come and cut down his head. It is even better this way with no one knowing!" Thinking about this, the killing intent in his eyes got even more intense.

"I'm curious. If you were to kill me, aren't you afraid that San Xiao Jie would blame you?" Wan Lin's face, as usual, was calm with a strange look in his eyes. Mu Hai's desire to kill him was obvious, so he had to make a decision himself.

"This is hilarious. In the mansion, there is no restriction for men killing

each other. Moreover, I am a war slave whereas you are a pet slave. There is a difference in our statuses. If I kill you, not only would San Xiao Jie not blame me, she might even reward me." Mu Hai sneered. He turned his body and was about to leave.

"I see. Then, you don't have to leave." Wang Lin's voice immediately became ice cold.

Mu Hai was surprised. He stopped and turned to look, then let out a big laugh. "Since you are so eager to die, let me fulfill your wish! Later on, even if San Xiao Jie were to ask, I at least have an excuse."

After he said that, he took a leap and ran towards Wang Lin at a great speed with his right fist launching at the same time. Wang Lin however appeared indifferent. In an instant, soul power flowed through the veins of his entire body. His body slightly tilted and he kicked at the Mu Hai's wrist.

Mu Hai was stunned. Wang Lin's kick was so quick. Compared to the previous weak defense, this kick was at least two times faster.

Even though he was surprised, Mu Hai was not afraid. He knew that his opponent was merely at Level One of Soul Power. He, on the other hand, was at Level Two. Therefore, victory would be his to take. In fact, in his mind, he was already imagining how he would punch Wang Lin's right foot into bits of bloody meat pulp. He laughed maliciously and did not even evade. He adjusted his soul power and put himself in a tug of war of power with Wang Lin.

However, at the next moment, the smile on his face froze. At the

moment when their fist and leg hit each other, there was a thundering sound and a tornado formed around them for a brief moment. The man retreated four steps and steadied himself. His right hand was trembling and at this point, it had gone completely numb.

Wang Lin retreated two steps. There was slight numbness in his foot but it was gone in an instance.

“Level Two? So what!” There was a sarcastic look in his eyes when he mocked Mu Hai.

“This is not possible! You are not Level One. You have been concealing your true ability!” Mu Hai shouted hysterically. He did not believe that his Level Two soul power was defeated by a Level One.

Wang Lin did not conceal his powers. He was indeed just at Level One, but he had reached the peak of Level One and was soon going to achieve Level Two.

Wang Lin was a little disappointed. He initially thought that he could use his opponent to train his real battle ability, but the opponent was too weak. The opponent used his entire soul power in his punch, but Wang Lin had in fact only used about thirty to forty percent of his soul power in his kick.

Because Wang Lin had been training with the metal ball, the control of his soul power had improved tremendously. Currently he could perfectly muster seventy percent out of his entire soul power. He believed that as the height of the metal ball decreased from day to day, the day would come where he would gain perfect control over his soul power.

Wang Lin however, did not know that the key to the utilisation of soul power rested on his physical ability.

"Is this all that you can do? If that's the case, you are dead." Wang Lin's killer instinct was awakened, he threw the dagger from his hand, aiming at the man's heart. Facing against enemies who wanted to kill him, Wang Lin would never be soft-hearted.

At this time, there was a glimpse of madness in Mu Hai's eyes. He disregard the incoming dagger, immediately taking out a piece of black cloth and shaking it wildly. Suddenly a black light came out of it, hitting on the travelling dagger in mid air.

There was a loud clank as though two metal objects hit each other. The dagger changed its direction and buried itself deeply into the wall on the left side.

Wang Lin's face turned. When Mu Hai took out the black cloth, deep down he knew that it was dangerous. He did not say anything, but shook his body rapidly. The one hundred and twenty kilograms of lead blocks dropped heavily onto the ground.

Mu Hai was shocked and dumbstruck. At this moment, he thought, "When the opponent was battling him, he was actually carrying so many lead blocks. God, now that he has thrown away all the blocks, how fast will he be?"

Filled with fear, Mu Hai immediately shook his black cloth again. A black ray of light shoot towards Wang Lin.

After removing all the blocks Wang Lin did not stop running, forming a trail of shadows as he narrowly escaped the black light and reappeared behind Mu Hai. He unhesitatingly dropped a punch at Mu Hai's back, pouring his soul power into it, crushing Mu Hai's heart.

Still in disbelief, Mu Hai dropped onto the ground. He was angry. He did not understand why he, being a Level Two was defeated by a Level One. With this question, the last sign of life left Mu Hai.

"What did Mu Hai actually use? It could actually attack at such a high speed!" Wang Lin retrieved the piece of black cloth from Mu Hai's cold, dead hand. He took a glance at the cloth then threw it into his storage card. After that, he began searching his body. When he found Mu Hai's storage card, he smiled in his heart.

Walking out his courtyard, Wang Lin did not find any guard. After walking around a hundred metres, to where the arched gate was located at, Wang Lin found the two guards who were supposed to be guarding his courtyard.

"Do you think Mu Hai would kill that guy?" One of the guard asked indifferently.

"Mu Hai is not stupid. That guy is now the favourite pet. San Xiao Jie even gifted him a personal courtyard. In this mansion, no other slave could get such reward. In my opinion, Mu Hai must have gone to warn him." The other guard analysed.

"Hmph, it's good to give him a warning. Let that guy know who's in

charge. We both have guarded his place for almost three months now. Who the hell does he think he is!"

"Mu Hai is one of the ten greatest war slaves. His ability has reached Level Two. I am just worried that this guy is too weak. Hopefully, he will not get killed by Mu Hai."

"Now that you mention, I am a little worried. What if Mu Hai were to accidentally kill him. If San Xiao Jie wants to find someone to blame, we are in trouble. Let's head back and have a look." The guard hesitated while talking.

"Why don't both of you take a look and help me get rid of the body at the same time." Wang Lin's voice startled the two guards. When they turned their head, they only saw a glimpse of his back before disappearing.

They then hurried to Wang Lin's courtyard and found Mu Hai's body, they then looked at each other, both of them in shock. Mu Hai's ability was at Level Two, similar to them. In fear, they immediately carried the body with them and quickly left.

Killing Mu Hai might reveal his true ability, but Wang Lin knew deep in his heart that if he did not kill Mu Hai, later on he would bring him more trouble. He killed one as a warning to others. Besides that, Wang Lin believed that the past few months of training must have been realised by others, so he might as well show what he's capable of.

The next morning, when Chun Lan brought breakfast, Wang Lin's face was very pale as though he was sick. He hesitated, then asked Chun Lan

to repurchase the same herbs which they had bought to prepare San Xiao Jie's medicine the other day. Before he could finish his words, Wang Lin's face immediately turned red and he coughed. Then, he raised his arms and covered his mouth with the sleeves.

Chun Lan was surprised, immediately she moved forward to get a better look. Wang Lin lowered his arms. With a tired look on his face, he spoke to Chun Lan for a while before heading to bed to rest.

Even though Wang Lin tried very hard to conceal it, Chun Lin still managed to have a glimpse of the red colour on his sleeve.

Once Chun Lan had left, Wang Lin immediately sat up. He did not look sick anymore.

At the northeast of the mansion, there was a building.

Chun Lan was kneeling on the floor, nervously looking at Wang Popo who was in front of her. She was very frightened.

"Little girl, you have nothing to be scared of. Tell me what have you discovered when you met Wang Lin today." Wang Popo smiled gently towards Chun Lan while asking in a soft tone.

011 My Precious Black Cloth

"No..... Nothing... When I was bringing him his meal this morning he did not look too good. Erm..... It is as though he has fallen ill. Also, he said that the herbs needed for preparing San Xiao Jie' medicine were not enough. He asked me to buy another set of the same herbs. Oh, I also noticed him vomiting blood. It seems like he did not want anyone to know about it. If it wasn't for my sharp observation, I would not have noticed."

"Repeat to me again the herbs that he asked you to buy," Wang Popo said, with a glimpse of curiosity in her eyes.

Chun Lan immediately rehearsed all the herb names. After Wang Popo was done listening, she quietly murmured to herself and asked Chun Lan to leave.

The entire building block became as silent as could be. After a long while, Wang Popo thought to herself, "Vomiting blood? Is there such coincidence? Luckily Chun Lan was there when you vomited. You even tried to hide it. What you vomited was fake. The purpose was to trick people into thinking that you were injured. If I were to analyse it this way, in reality, you are not injured at all.

But, are you really uninjured? Hehe, if you did not ask Chun Lan to buy the herbs, me, Wang Popo, might have been tricked. You young man, are quite clever. But young man, even though you are smart, Wang Popo is not foolish either. Amongst the seventeen herbs, there is one that is used to treat internal injury. I think that this is the herb which you really want.

Pretending that you are injured when you are not and pretending that you are not injured to cover up the truth that you are injured. Playing the game of lies and truth, Wang Lin, you are frighteningly cunning. However, you are still young. Those tricks of yours will not work on me.

In my opinion, Mu Hai was at Level Two. It's impossible for you Wang Lin, to be victorious unscathed." Thinking that she had found out the truth, Wang Popo coldly smiled.

However, no matter how hard Wang Popo tried to analyse it, she would never guess Wang Lin's true body condition.

In terms of this game of pretense, Wang Lin was indeed a few times better than her.

After killing Mu Hai, Wang Lin's life was once again peaceful.

Wang Lin took out Mu Hai's black cloth and carefully analysed it for a long time. This black cloth looked extremely ordinary. Apart from a gold coloured "X" sign stitched onto the right bottom corner, it looked the same as any other ordinary cloth.

However, when he used his Sensing ability, he found something unusual. The cloth fibres were like blood vessels, with flowing liquid. Besides that, there were ten bright spots on the black cloth. Five of them were already dimmed, whereas the remaining ones were still lit up.

Wang Lin was amazed at this discovery. He once again touched the

black cloth and realised that it was as though he was touching a piece of skin. At this point, he couldn't help thinking that this cloth was actually a piece of skin from certain living organism!

Recalling how Mu Hai used this black cloth to shoot out two rays of black light, Wang Lin had an epiphany. He slowly transferred his soul power into the black cloth. At the time, the black cloth suddenly shook. Wang Lin's soul power uncontrollably flowed into the cloth like a wild horse.

Wang Lin was surprised. After that he calmly used his Sensing ability to observe. He found out that once his soul power flowed into the black cloth, it was immediately absorbed into the blood vessels-like fibres and mixed with the liquid inside.

The liquid was initially moving very slowly, but after mixing with soul power, it sped up. The liquid flowed to where the five bright spots were.

At this time, there was an accident. When the liquid filled with soul power flowed into the bright spots, not everything entered. Around seventy to eighty percent of it was wasted.

Wang Lin immediately tried to exert control. Under his control, the soul power wastage was reduced.

The bright spots became brighter and brighter as they received more liquid filled with soul power. A dangerous aura was felt. Suddenly, Wang Lin's brain trembled. Initially he saw a meteor moving through the sky. After that, five dimmed coloured light spots slowly appeared in his mind.

Just by thinking, a spot immediately disappeared, followed by the surging of a dark ray of light from the black cloth. Wang Lin threw out his metal ball.

At this time, the dark light hit the metal ball and with a loud “piang” sound, the metal ball exploded into pieces.

After that, there were only four spots on the black cloth!

Wang Lin was stunned. He remembered that the shopkeeper who sold the metal ball to him say that the metal ball could only be broken by a Physical Honourable. Even someone of Level Five would not be able to destroy the metal ball with one attack. Thus, anyone below the level of Honourables could use the ball to train. It was also due to aforementioned reason that Wang Lin had bought a few extra metal balls.

If the shopkeeper was not lying, did that mean that the dark light was as powerful as the attack from a Physical Honourable?

However, Mu Hai did not have such ability and his speed was not that fast. If he had used the dark light with the same amount of energy and speed as Wang Lin, Wang Lin would not have been able to evade the attack.

After analysing further, Wang Lin finally understood. The power of this precious black cloth was dependent on the control of soul power. As the amount of soul power flowing into the bright spots increased, the destructive power would be greater. The same applied to speed! Thinking about this, he felt very relieved deep down.

Wang Lin regathered his soul power. He was extremely pleased. This was a precious piece of treasure. He carefully put the black cloth into the storage card and decided not to use it in the future, unless really necessary. After all, the bright spots had limited uses. The spots would decrease by one with each use.

Although one had gone to waste for the sake of experimenting, Wang Lin did not regret his action. If it weren't for the experiment, how would he have figured out that this precious treasure contained such great power.

Mu Hai was so pitiful. He spent most of his lifetime hard-earned savings on this treasure and now it was owned by Wang Lin, after merely having using it twice. If he had found out about this in his grave, he would definitely vomit blood once again due to heartache and die.

After storing the black cloth securely, Wang Lin brought out Mu Hai's storage card. He used his Sensing ability to sense. Suddenly, there was a weird look on Wang Lin's face. In this card, apart from some food and groceries, there were a large number of tools.

Among them include a rubber stick, lubricating oil, strength assisting device and massage stick. Wang Lin was momentarily stunned when he discovered this.

He could not understand for what purpose Mu Hai had prepared these items. Besides that, he also knew that these items were not cheap. He had seen many of them at the equipment store the other day.

Without wasting any more time on those items, Wang Lin continued searching and finally found a spellbook!

Level E Skill, Ghost Evasion Technique – – Basic.

Skill? Wang Lin immediately noticed the difference. Upon a closer look, this Ghost Evasion is not for training soul power but a skill. According to the documentation, after training to a certain level, the body could become like a ghost, appearing and disappearing at will.

Although it felt like the description was exaggerated, he decided to train in this skill, thinking that it could help increase his speed.

However, Wang Lin felt strange. Since Mu Hai had such technique, why was his speed so slow when fighting against Wang Lin?

What he didn't know was that, this Ghost Evasion Technique was like the precious black cloth; they had only recently been acquired by Mu Hai. Before he could train in it, it ended up in Wang Lin's hand.

Apart from the Ghost Evasion Skill, the other items in Mu Hai's storage card were rubbish. After throwing away the card, Wang Lin felt that he could get used to this satisfying "kill-and-steal-card" feeling.

The Ghost Evasion Skill was different from others as it had the "skill" word attached it. Wang Lin murmured softly, remembering this in his heart.

In a flash, a few days had passed, but no one had approached Wang Lin

in order to investigate Mu Hai's death. Thus, he now believed Mu Hai's words about how men were allowed to kill each other inside the mansion.

"Since I have killed one, I might as well kill another. Wang Mang, you are out of your depths!" Wang Lin's eyes were full of killing intent. He thought to himself that San Xiao Jie would not blame him for the death of a couple of worthless underlings. Therefore, even before nightfall, Wang Lin stepped into Wang Mang's room and murdered him in cold blood. Wang Mang's room turned into a bloody scene. Up till his very last breath, Wang Mang's eyes were full of jealousy and hatred.

He did not comprehend. Both he and Wang Lin were both from Jian Yu Island, but their treatment from their superiors was so vastly different.

Time passed quickly. In the blink of an eye, Wang Lin had resided in the Violet Mansion for half a year.

Within half a year, he improved drastically. The Spiritual Enhancement Technique was trained to the seventh illustration. His soul power had also smoothly been raised to Level Two. In regards to body strength, he was able to run two hundred rounds with two hundred kilograms of weight.

Besides that, he managed to shoot out twelve drops of fresh blood with each attack. However, Wang Lin recalled about how weak his attack was during the previous encounter with the short-haired lady. After carefully thinking about how he could improve on his attack, he gave up on trying to increase the number of blood droplets. Instead, he put his focus on mustering soul power into it. When he managed to put one third of his soul power into a drop of blood, Wang Lin was very delighted with its impressive destructive power.

At the same time, in regards to soul power control, Wang Lin managed to maintain a height of nineteen metres around half of the time.

Wang Lin thought to himself that, even though he had not fought against any Level Three opponents, if he was ever engaged in such a battle he should be able to hold his own. His argument was that the opponent's soul power control would not be as good as his.

Of course, with the precious black cloth, even if the opponent was an Honourable, Wang Lin would still be able to fight, though the chances of winning would be quite slim.

During the training for the past half year, Wang Lin did not only improve his own ability, but he also gained more insight into other people's abilities. The more he analysed the fight between the barbarian, Stone, and the ten great Honourables, the more apprehensive he became. Stone's speed was something that he longed for dearly.

Wang Lin knew that this skill training was not dissimilar to the training of soul power. It would be impossible for him to have earth-shattering improvement within a short period of time, but he had his own plans.

"As long as I move fast enough, I should be able to defend myself!" Wang Lin told himself.

Another incident that made him feel exceedingly fortunate was the rainy night where he fought against the long-haired lady. If the opponent had not mistaken his attack for the Blood Binding Technique, he feared that she would have chased after him and killed him.

Many of the equipments which he had bought a few months ago were no longer suitable for use. After carefully considering it for a few days, Wang Lin decided to go out shopping.

A month ago, as the Corpse Flower Poison in San Xiao Jie's body slowly turned back to the first stage, Wang Lin took this golden opportunity to ask for permission to leave the mansion at will. San Xiao Jie was undecided for a while, but eventually gave him a directive badge.

From then on, Wang Lin could freely leave the mansion without being accompanied by Chun Lan.

The way that the guards looked at him was also different after his fight with Mu Hai a few months ago. The guards who were stationed outside his courtyard did not dare to stop him anymore when he was leaving.

For the past few months, Wang Lin's name was on every servant's mouth in Violet Mansion. They all knew about the existence of the person who, not only was favoured by San Xiao Jie to the extent of being gifted a courtyard of his own, but also had such great ability that he could kill one of the ten greatest war slaves, Mu Hai.

After leaving Violet Mansion, Wang Lin did not stop but kept walking towards a body fitness club at the east side of the city. He had heard from Chun Lan a few times that one just needed to pay a few crystal coins to freely use any of the equipment in the club for training.

Along the journey, many Honourables were patrolling and checking people's identification. Every time Wang Lin took out his directive badge,

they would leave him alone.

After a while, Wang Lin arrived at the club. In front of the door stood two muscular women. They did not feel strange when looking at Wang Lin. The club was a complicated place. Many influential people would bring their underlings here to train together with them inside the club, thus the women only gave him a quick glance before allowing him to enter.

Chapter 12 - Grade E Evasion Training [Part 1]

After paying ten crystal coins and entering the fitness club, Wang Lin was escorted by a customer service liaison to a room. The room was not big, but empty. Other than a giant metal globe in the middle of the room, there was no other equipment.

After Wang Lin entered, he realised that there were a few people putting their hands on the metal globe, with their eyes closed and apparently deep in thought.

The one who escorted Wang Lin into the room was a male. He lowered his voice and said, "This is hall number 6. If you key in the hall number here, you will be escorted out again. If there's any problem, you can choose room number 111 where there are experts who can answer all your enquiries." After he finished talking, the man did not bother Wang Lin anymore and left.

At the same time, a person who had been standing beside the metal globe was surrounded by some white light before disappearing.

Wang Lin was stunned. He subsequently put his hand on the metal globe and understood the principles behind the metal globe.

This metal globe was like a menu. You could enter any room number and choose the room to train in.

Wang Lin's mind was presented with a series of messages.

“Three times gravity room, full.

Four times gravity room, full.

Evasion training room, 19 empty slots.

Defence training room, explosive power training room.....”

All these options gave Wang Lin a headache. He muttered to himself softly and chose the evasion training room.

A white light appeared and Wang Lin found himself in a room about twenty square metres.

There was only him in the room. Upon his arrival, a metal globe similar to before surfaced from the ground. Wang Lin instinctively put his hand on it and a series of messages appeared in his mind.

“Choose training levels : A, B, C, D, E.”

Wang Lin chose E.

The metal globe instantly disappeared, followed by the appearance of ten golden light beads in the room. The light beads simultaneously travelled towards Wang Lin at high speed.

Wang Lin moved his body, managed to evade the light beads, but

suddenly their trajectories changed, and once again flying towards Wang Lin.

Just like that, Wang Lin continuously dodged all the attacks. Slowly, he started to become a bit short of breath. All of the ten light beads had different trajectories with tricky angles. Most of the time when Wang Lin tried to dodge one, a few of the others would hit him.

After ten minutes, Wang Lin was exhausted. He realised that merely ten minutes of this kind of training, was almost equivalent to him running two hundred rounds with one hundred kilograms of weight.

Thanks to his previous training, even though he was hit by the light beads many Wang Lin still continued his evasion training. As his body's strength decreased, naturally the frequency of him being hit by light beads increased.

Thirty minutes later, Wang Lin's body reached its limit. At this time, a digital voice was heard transmitting in the room :

"The trainer's body strength has reached negative value. Training is over. Marks gained — thirty one minutes Grade E Evasion Training, thirty four marks."

Once the light beads disappeared, Wang Lin's eyes brightened. This special training was way more efficient than his previous simple training of running exercises with weight. The most important thing was, the training here could increase his speed.

Although training a day would require ten crystal coins, Wang Lin was not worried about the cost. The combined total of crystal coins which he obtained from the two storage cards was above one thousand, enough for him to train for a few months.

After resting a while, his physical strength slowly recovered. Wang Lin once again trained in his Spiritual Enhancement Technique. Although he trained for just ten minutes, his body strength recovered immensely.

Before starting to train, he hesitated. He released the two hundred kilograms of lead blocks from his body and chose Grade E Evasion training again.

Thirty minutes later, Wang Lin stopped training. Only half of his body strength was used up. At this time, he frowned. The digital voice was once again heard transmitting :

“Marks gained – – thirty minutes Grade E Evasion training, ninety-nine marks.”

In this half an hour, Wang Lin was only hit once by one of the ten light beads when their speeds suddenly increased.

“This kind of training was not challenging enough to achieve my training objective. Looks like I should put the lead blocks back on.” Wang Lin thought deeply before putting on the lead blocks back on before he, again, chose Grade E Evasion training.

Three days. He had been continuously training in the room for three

days. As the consumption of energy was larger than he imagined in these past three days, when Wang Lin found out that he could order meals from the metal globe, he decided to do so. He was convinced that San Xiao Jie would not be able to meddle with his meals here, so he ordered a lot at one go.

In three days time, he had managed to reduce his frequency of being hit to fewer than twenty times in a sixty minute period, with a two-hundred kilograms weight.

Although Wang Lin really liked this place, he knew that if he didn't go back to the mansion for a long period of time, San Xiao Jie would search the entire city for him. Moreover, today was the day where he needed to prepare medicine for San Xiao Jie. In order not to affect his own escape plan, he memorised the training room number and left.

A few months ago, after Wang Lin killed Mu Hai and Wang Mang, he had devised a plan, to escape Violet Mansion!

In regards to the worm in his body, Wang Lin knew that the next time it showed itself, he would successfully catch it. For this past half year he kept all the cure which San Xiao Jie had given him without using it, just in case.

In the room at the fitness club where Wang Lin had trained for three days, a blinding white light was seen not long after he left, followed by the appearance of a young lady with maroon, curled hair.

"This is really irritating. That bloody guy actually used this room for three days. Hmph! Does he not know that 5187 is my lucky number."

Wrinkles were seen on her nose. She raised her hand and the metal globe flew to her.

When she put her hand on it, she was stunned. She exclaimed, "Wow, that's amazing!"

Sixty minutes Grade E training, thirty-five marks..... Sixty minutes Grade E training, fifty marks..... Sixty minutes Grade E training, seventy-five marks..... Sixty minutes Grade E training, eighty-six marks!

"This person is so talented. The training results seemed to improve at an exponential rate. This is too scary." The young lady was at a loss of words.

Grade E Evasion training was not like other trainings. Even experts of Level Three or Four soul power would have difficulties obtaining more than fifty marks. Under the constant vicious attacks from ten gold beads, unless one had extremely good reflexes and sensitivity, it would be difficult to withstand the training for even thirty minutes!

What's shocking the young lady even more was the sixty minute mark which Wang Lin had managed to get!

All this while, she had thought that herself was extremely talented in this evasion training. Her best marks was ten minutes ninety-five marks.

But, the opponent managed to withstand the training for sixty minutes each time!!

The young lady felt a chill in her heart. She could not comprehend what's it like to be able to withstand the Grade E Evasion training for sixty minutes, but she knew, her cousin who had become a Spiritual Honourable, even after using Spiritual secret techniques, could only withstand the training for fifty minutes with the marks of merely forty-five.

Both her eyes gleamed. Even though she did not know why the person who had trained here earlier on did not reset his or her scores, she believed that person should be an extremely powerful fighter!

This feeling was intensified after she accidentally spotted the line of words below the training scores.

"Trainer's body weight..... Two hundred and sixty kilograms!"

Soon after Wang Lin returned to Violet Mansion, Chun Lan came. When Chun Lan saw him, she gave out a deep sigh of relief and started complaining, "Where have you been these few days? Xiao Jie has looked for you many times. We servants have been scolded every day."

Wang Lin smiled apologetically. He took out a pill and passed it to Chun Lan, while saying, "I have been to the body fitness club that you mentioned the other day. Been training there for three days."

Chun Lan grabbed the pill and curiously asked, "How was it? Not bad right? Erm, wait for me. After delivering the medicine, I shall come back to hear about the place. I have not been there yet myself."

Once she finished speaking, Chun Lan left hurriedly.

After a while, Chun Lan returned. Wang Lin had a long conversation with her. When Chun Lan saw the exhausted look on Wang Lin's face, she immediately asked to leave.

After Chun Lan left, Wang Lin trained in the seventh illustration of Spiritual Enhancement Technique for some time. According to the description, once the illustration was mastered, soul power would achieve Level Three.

Even though the training of the Spiritual Enhancement Technique became tougher as it got more advanced, Wang Lin believed that he would be able to achieve a big accomplishment in a few months time.

Wang Lin was excited about Level Three soul power. With his good soul power control plus the body strengthening exercise which he had gone through so far, he believed that even if Mu Hai had attained Level Four soul power, he could have easily killed Mu Hai.

Wang Lin suppressed his excitement and took out three items from his storage card.

Hell Raiser Technique Grade D — Basic.

Ghost Evasion Skill Grade E — Basic.

Spiral Thrust Power Grade E — Basic.

Regarding Hell Raiser Technique, Wang Lin did not plan to train this without fully understanding its pros and cons. Therefore, even though the technique was of Grade D, he directly ignored it.

In terms of Ghost Evasion Skill, Wang Lin was very interested. He already arranged for some time to train this and see the results of it.

In regards to Spiral Thrust Power, Wang Lin was a little apprehensive.

He had studied on Spiral Thrust Power before and realised that it was a simple way to utilise soul power. However, at that time, he was struggling to control his power and after training it briefly, found out that the effect was not desirable, thus he had abandoned it. After he had used the metal ball to solve his soul power control problem, he reconsidered the Spiral Thrust Power. He learned that this technique focused on channeling the soul power into a spiral shape for quick attacks. Although it could reduce soul power wastage, it was not as good a training as his metal ball.

Therefore, this technique was deemed of little value. Wang Lin picked the book up anyway, and once again studied it carefully.

Slowly, Wang Lin grasped some new ideas from it. He found out that this Spiral Thrust Power was completely for utilising soul power. From the descriptions in the book, if one was attacking the opponent and used this technique, the damage done would be greater.

Wang Lin understood this principle. Using the Spiral Thrust Power speed to reduce the soul power usage. For example, one person who punched the opponent without using this technique would need

approximately one second to channel his soul power. His soul power would be dispensed and wasted in this one second. If the soul power was channelled using Spiral Thrust Power, it would require only 0.8 second.

Do not dismiss this difference of 0.2 second. The soul power that could be wasted would be around ten percent during this 0.2 second.

Sometimes, ten percent was all that's needed to determine the winner or loser.

From the book's price, Wang Lin could also see the importance of this technique. It was almost ten times the price of Spiritual Enhancement Technique.

But Wang Lin would not be pursuing this technique at the moment. Once he reached a certain level in the metal ball training which he invented, the ability to not waste soul power for even 0.1 second during attacks should be achieved too.

However, after studying the Spiral Thrust Power technique, Wang Lin got a realisation. Although the Spiritual Enhancement Technique had been trained till the seventh illustration, there was an obvious weakness — his soul power flow was slow during training.

